Grand Prix; Gulf of Mexico, Sarasota, FL'' ((RIN1625–AA00) (Docket No. USCG–2016–0418)) received during adjournment of the Senate in the Office of the President of the Senate on July 20, 2016; to the Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation.

EC–7611. A communication from the Attorney-Advisor, U.S. Coast Guard, Department of Homeland Security, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled ''Special Local Regulation; Black Warrior River, Mile 338.8 to 341.9; Tuscaloosa, AL'' ((RIN1625–AA00) (Docket No. USCG–2016–0576)) received during adjournment of the Senate in the Office of the President of the Senate on July 20, 2016; to the Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation.

EC–7612. A communication from the Attorney-Advisor, U.S. Coast Guard, Department of Homeland Security, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled ''Safety Zone; Houma Navigation Canal miles 23 to 23.5, Dulac, LA'' ((RIN1625–AA00) (Docket No. USCG–2016–0650)) received during adjournment of the Senate in the Office of the President of the Senate on July 20, 2016; to the Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation.

EC–7613. A communication from the Attorney-Advisor, U.S. Coast Guard, Department of Homeland Security, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled ''Safety Zone; Hudson River, Edgewater, NJ'' ((RIN1625–AA00) (Docket No. USCG–2016–0648)) received during adjournment of the Senate in the Office of the President of the Senate on July 20, 2016; to the Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation.

EC–7614. A communication from the Attorney-Advisor, U.S. Coast Guard, Department of Homeland Security, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled ''Safety Zone; Navy UNDET, Apra Outer Harbor, GU'' ((RIN1625–AA00) (Docket No. USCG–2016–0555)) received during adjournment of the Senate in the Office of the President of the Senate on July 20, 2016; to the Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation.

EC–7615. A communication from the Attorney-Advisor, U.S. Coast Guard, Department of Homeland Security, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled ''Safety Zone; Tennessee River 385.0–387.0; Scottsboro, AL'' ((RIN1625–AA00) (Docket No. USCG–2016–0467)) received during adjournment of the Senate in the Office of the President of the Senate on July 20, 2016; to the Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation.

EC–7616. A communication from the Deputy Assistant Administrator for Regulatory Programs, Office of Sustainable Fisheries, Department of Commerce, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled ''Designating the Sakhalin Bay-Nikolaya Bay-Amur River Stock of Beluga Whales as a Depleted Stock Under the Marine Mammal Protection Act (MMPA)'' (RIN0648–BF55) received during adjournment of the Senate in the Office of the President of the Senate on November 9, 2016; to the Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation.

EC–7617. A communication from the Federal Register Liaison Officer, Alcohol and Tobacco Tax and Trade Bureau, Department of the Treasury, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled ''Establishment of the Appalachian High Country Viticultural Area'' (RIN1513–AC25) received during adjournment of the Senate in the Office of the President of the Senate on November 9, 2016; to the Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation.

PETITIONS AND MEMORIALS

The following petitions and memorials were laid before the Senate and were referred or ordered to lie on the table as indicated:

POM–216. A concurrent memorial adopted by the Legislature of the State of Arizona urging the United States Congress to enact the Resilient Federal Forests Act; to the Committee on Agriculture, Nutrition, and Forestry.

SENATE CONCURRENT MEMORIAL 1011

Whereas, national forest lands are the largest single source of water in the United States and, in some regions of the west, contribute nearly 50% of the overall water supply; and

Whereas, the unhealthy state of these forests has resulted in catastrophic wildfires that are threatening the reliability, volume and quality of water for tens of millions of Americans; and

Whereas, severe drought and record-breaking wildfire seasons have highlighted the need for the implementation of a process that would require and provide for the United States Forest Service to accelerate restoration work in our national forests, which would protect critical headwaters and make forest lands more resilient against prolonged dry conditions, insect infestation and fire; and

Whereas, failure to take quick action will result in a continued increase in the frequency and intensity of destructive wildfires, impacting the nation's water resources for decades at considerable cost to stakeholders and United States taxpayers; and

Whereas, the customs, cultures and economic well-being of our local communities, as well as important historic and cultural aspects of our local heritage, are being ignored, which adversely affects the lives and jobs of the people of the United States and devastates local and state economies; and

Whereas, on June 4, 2015, Representative Bruce Westerman introduced H.R. 2647, the Resilient Federal Forests Act. The bill passed in the House on July 9, 2015 and was transmitted to the Senate, where it died in committee; and

Whereas, the Resilient Federal Forests Act expedites and improves forest management activities through a collaborative process, resulting in the protection of water resources.

Wherefore your memorialist, the Senate of the State of Arizona, the House of Representative concurring, prays:

1. That the United States Congress enact the Resilient Federal Forests Act.

2. That the Secretary of State of the State of Arizona transmit copies of this Memorial to the President of the United States Senate, the Speaker of the United States House of Representatives and each Member of Congress from the State of Arizona.

POM–217. A joint resolution adopted by the Legislature of the State of California relative to small unmanned aircraft systems; to the Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation.

SENATE JOINT RESOLUTION NO. 18

Whereas, In the western United States, water is a vital and scarce resource, the availability of which has and continues to circumscribe growth, development, economic well-being, and environmental quality of life; and

Whereas, The wise use, conservation, development, and management of our water resources is critical to maintaining human life, health, safety, and property; and

Whereas, The western United States is currently experiencing serious drought conditions that are predicted to worsen; and

Whereas, Agricultural irrigation uses a significant amount of water, making the agricultural sector one of the most important sectors to examine when considering water conservation; and

Whereas, Even modest improvements in agricultural water use can result in significant amounts of water not being depleted regionwide, which can then be utilized elsewhere; and

Whereas, Precision agricultural management studies have shown than farmers can reduce the amount of water, fertilizer, and pesticide needed by their fields by utilizing high-resolution, high-quality remotely sensed imagery to guide their application efforts of water, fertilizer, and pesticide; and

Whereas, Small unmanned aircraft systems (sUAS) have the capability to quickly provide expansive, high-resolution, and high-quality remotely sensed imagery that can measure specific bands in the solar spectrum, such as the thermal infrared band, which allows farmers to better understand and manage their water use; and

Whereas, The Federal Aviation Administration (FAA) is currently in the process adopting rules for the usage of sUAS in agricultural management; and

Whereas, Flights of sUAS, for the purposes of precision agricultural management, could occur safely at low altitudes, in rural areas removed from other air traffic and human populations, and in accordance with the FAA's proposed guidelines; and

Whereas, Small unmanned aircraft systems have been used in precision agricultural management in Japan for a decade, successfully optimizing and monitoring the management of 2.5 million acres of farmland, 40 percent of which are rice fields, without any significant reported incidents; and

Whereas, Several University of California campuses and the California State University system are developing precision agriculture applications with sUAS to help save water and improve crop and environmental monitoring. For example, the Mechatronics Embedded Systems and Automation Lab at the University of California, Merced, has developed numerous innovations for precision agricultural management with sUAS; and

Whereas, Flights of sUAS also have the capacity for detecting invasive plant species that deplete high amounts of water such as yellow star thistle, arundo, tamarisk, and cheatgrass, which serve no agricultural purpose and removal of which would help in water conservation efforts; and

Whereas, The use of sUAS is an emerging technology and has great promise for the development of models that forecast and predict economic impacts of droughts and meteorological phenomena: Now, therefore, be it

Resolved by the Senate and the Assembly of the State of California, jointly, That, due to the severity of the drought gripping the western United States, the California Legislature respectfully requests the President of the United States and the United States Secretary of Transportation, more specifically the FAA, to allow for the operation of sUAS by farmers and rangeland managers pursuant to emergency rules adopted by the administration before the FAA rules for sUAS are finalized. The emergency rules should be based on the proposed FAA rules for sUAS that were released in February 2015 and that incorporate all of the following:

(a) That the emergency FAA rules for sUAS operation be applicable to counties located in the western portion of the United States that are projected to be in drought during the current growing season, as defined by the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Association's Seasonal Drought Outlook.

(b) That the emergency FAA rules for sUAS operation allow Farmers to contract with sUAS flight service providers to execute

missions on their behalf in the airspace overlying lands that they own or control under the proposed FAA rules for sUAS.

(c) That the emergency FAA rules for sUAS operations that allow universities and government agencies seeking to operate or procure providers for sUAS missions for drought-related research or precision management applications be given expedited approval.

(d) That the emergency FAA rules for sUAS operation also allow farmers and rangeland managers to use sUAS imagery to detect highly water-depletive invasive species on their land or public lands that they manage; and be it further

Resolved, That the Secretary of the Senate transmit copies of this resolution to the President and Vice President of the United States, the Speaker of the House of Representatives, the Majority Leader of the Senate, each Senator and Representative from California in the Congress of, the United States, and the Federal Aviation Administration.

POM–218. A joint resolution adopted by the Legislature of the State of California relative to federal transportation funding; to the Committee on Commerce, Science and Transportation.

SENATE JOINT RESOLUTION NO. 24

Whereas, California's transportation infrastructure is aging and in serious need of repair with the state facing a $59 billion shortfall to bring the existing state highway system to a state of good repair over the next decade and with California cities and counties facing a $78 billion shortfall in restoring their own systems over the same period; and

Whereas, California motorists spend $17 billion annually in extra maintenance and car repair bills, more than $700 per driver, due to the state's poorly maintained roads; and

Whereas, Freight, transportation is critical to the economic vitality of the United States and robust investment in safe and efficient transportation facilities and infrastructure is essential to promoting strong economic growth in California and throughout the nation; and

Whereas, California has the most extensive, complex, and interconnected freight system in the country, including a system of seaports stretching from the City of Humboldt to the City of San Diego, six international land ports of entry along the United States-Mexico border, and a vast network of freight rail lines and truck routes which enable the state to serve as the nation's gateway to international trade; and

Whereas, California's freight network moves 1.8 billion tons of goods, valued at more than $2 trillion, throughout the state; the vast majority of which travels to destinations beyond the state's borders; and

Whereas, Freight shipments into, out of, and within California, are projected to grow approximately 180 percent by the year 2040; and

Whereas, California's freight system. is responsible for the creation of 800,000 freight jobs and stimulates the creation of millions of other jobs throughout the economy; and

Whereas, Expansion of public transportation is a key element of California's strategy to improve mobility while meeting critical greenhouse gas reduction targets; yet the California Transit Association reports that the state's public transit agencies face a 10-year $72 billion capital and operating shortfall; and

Whereas, In December 2015, the United States Congress passed, and President Barack Obama signed, the Fixing. America's Surface Transportation Act (FASTAct), which represents the first long-term federal transportation bill in more than a decade; and

Whereas, The FAST Act provides California and other states with long-term certainty and stability in financing transportation projects by providing marginal increases in most existing highway and transit programs, as well as $2.1 billion annually in new freight investment; and

Whereas, The FAST Act still falls short of the level of investment needed to rebuild California's and the nation's infrastructure because the United States congress has not raised the federal fuel excise tax that traditionally has funded transportation since 1993, and meanwhile, the tax has lost more than 55 percent of its purchasing power and Congress has been unable to agree on an alternative to restore that funding gap: Now, therefore, be it

Resolved by the Senate and the Assembly of the State of California, jointly, That the Legislature commends. Congress and the President of the United States for enacting the FAST Act to provide stability and reliability in federal transportation funding over the next five years; and be it further,

Resolved, That the Legislature urges Congress and the President to fully fund the Transportation Investment Generating Economic Recovery (TIGER) program at a level of $525 million in the 2017 fiscal year to provide additional critical transportation investment in California and elsewhere; and be it further

Resolved, That the Legislature urges Congress and the President to work together to finally find a long-term, sustainable funding solution to restore the lost purchasing power of the federal fuel excise tax, and provide California and the rest of the country with the resources needed to rebuild its infrastructure, invest in its people through good, well-paying jobs, and restore our economy; and be it further

Resolved, That the Secretary of the Senate transmit copies of this resolution to the President and Vice President of the United States, to the Speaker of the House of Representatives, to the Majority Leader of the Senate, to each Senator and Representative from California in the Congress of the United States, and to the author for appropriate distribution.

POM–219. A concurrent memorial adopted by the Legislature of the State of Arizona urging the-United States Congress to act to prohibit federal agencies from recommending and identifying Arizona's public lands as wilderness areas without express congressional consent; to the Committee on Energy and Natural Resources.

SENATE CONCURRENT MEMORIAL 1014

Whereas, through federal land management planning and associated guidelines, federal agencies are recommending and identifying Arizona's public lands as wilderness areas; and

Whereas, these administratively recommended wilderness areas circumvent congressional intent and lack full and appropriate National Environmental. Policy Act (NEPA) analyses; and

Whereas, the identification of these de facto wilderness areas has resulted in significant restrictions on public access and recreation, paralyzing restrictions on the Arizona Game and Fish Department's ability to manage wildlife and potentially catastrophic restrictions on vegetation and habitat improvement projects, including fire management activities; and

Whereas, the conservation of wildlife resources is the trust responsibility of the Arizona Game and Fish Commission, and this responsibility extends to all lands within Arizona to ensure abundant wildlife resources for current and future generations; and

Whereas, the designation of Arizona's public lands as wilderness areas has resulted in the erosion of the Arizona Game and Fish Department's ability to comply with its federal mandate to proactively recover threatened and endangered species; and

Whereas, according to federal land management agency guidelines, an administratively recommended wilderness area must be managed to ''protect and maintain the social and ecological characteristics that provide the basis for wilderness recommendation'' in perpetuity or until Congress takes action to formally designate the area as a wilderness area; and

Whereas, allowable activities within administratively recommended wilderness areas will be left to the discretion of federal staff and deciding officers, resulting in even greater restrictions and limitations than those formally vetted and designated by Congress; and

Whereas, congressionally designated wilderness provides clearer guidance for management and coordination with this state, specific processes for wildlife management exemptions and direction for collaboration via existing state agreements and guidelines; and

Whereas, administratively recommended wilderness areas circumvent the spirit of NEPA and congressional intent and lack transparency; and

Whereas, with the implementation of federal land management plans, recommended wilderness areas constitute a significant and immediate change in management without a fully disclosed impact analysis required by NEPA; and

Whereas, the federal land management plans lack full NEPA disclosure of potential impacts to this state and the public, assurances protecting this state's ability to proactively manage wildlife and fulfill its public trust responsibility, including specific management activities, and analyses of the cumulative impacts of further loss of public lands that provide for multiple-use and wildlife-related recreational and economic opportunities; and

Whereas, the areas being recommended as wilderness were not included within the original wilderness designations with purposeful intent by Congress; and

Whereas, the subsequent expansion of previously designated wilderness is an overreach of the federal agencies and disingenuous to the public, subverting original collaboration, coordination, negotiation and agreements; and

Whereas, the federal agency planning documents suggest that no significant management action or recommendation to Congress will take place before further NEPA analyses are completed. Within the recently released Prescott and Apache-Sitgreaves National Forest recommended wildernesses, the United States Forest Service indicates that these areas are simply preliminary administrative recommendations and that further NEPA analyses are necessary, However, in transmittal letters, the United States Forest Service states that ''the Final Environmental Impact Statement for the . . . Forest's Revised Resource Management Plan contains the NEPA analysis necessary to support a legislative proposal.'' This is an egregious lack of transparency.

Wherefore your memorialist, the Senate of the State of Arizona, the House of Representatives concurring, prays:

1. That the Congress of the United States act to prohibit federal agencies from recommending and identifying Arizona's public lands as wilderness areas without express congressional consent.

2. That the Secretary of State of the State of Arizona transmit copies of this Memorial to the President of the United States Senate, the Speaker of the United States House of Representatives and each Member of Congress from the State of Arizona.

POM–220. A resolution adopted by the Senate of the Commonwealth of Pennsylvania relative to establishing drinking water standards for certain chemicals; to the Committee on Environment and Public Works.

SENATE RESOLUTION NO. 384

Whereas, Decades after the United States Navy used an unregulated contaminant in firefighting training on two former Bases, Willow Grove Naval Air Station Joint Reserve Base in Horsham and Naval Air Warfare Center Warminster, in Montgomery and Bucks Counties, chemicals are appearing in elevated levels in public and private water wells; and

Whereas, The chemicals, perfluorooctane sulfonate (PFOS) and perfluorooctansic acid (PFOA), are used in a variety of products such as fabric, carpets, nonstick cookware and firefighting foam; and

Whereas, PFOS and PFOA are ''extremely persistent in the environment and resistant to typical environmental degradation processes,'' according the United States Environmental Protection Agency (EPA). The EPA also states, ''The toxicity, mobility and bioaccumulation potential of PFOS and FOA pose potential adverse effects for the environment and human health'; and

Whereas, A growing body of science has established associations between PFOS and PFOA and a range of health effects including a variety of cancers; and

Whereas, The chemicals were first disconered in local public water supplies near the former military bases by an EPA testing program in 2013 and 2014, resulting in a health advisory that took several public water wells offline; and

Whereas, On Thursday,May 19, 2016, the EPA issued an update to its health advisory for PFOS and PFOA that significantly reduced the amount considered safe in drinking water. In the worst possible case, water containing the chemicals at an amount previously deemed safe would now be more than eight times over the recommended limits; and

Whereas, The new recommended levels have resulted in officials from the Horsham Water and Sewer Authority, Warminster Municipal Authority and Warrington Township Water and Sewer Department shutting down contaminated public drinking water wells, including 16 municipal wells in Horsham, Warrington and Warminster Thownships and an estimated 80 private wells; and

Whereas, While the Senate of Pennsylvania acknowledges the current efforts of the EPA and the Department of Defense (DOD) as well as the Department of Environmental Protection to provide bottled water to local residents, more needs to be done to fully address this situation: Therefore be it

Resolved, That the Senate of the Commonwealth of Pennsylvania wage the President, the Congress of the United States and the EPA to expeditiously determine if a Federal drinking water standard should be issued for PFOSs and PFOAs that can be enforced in the same manner as lead and arsenic; and be it further

Resolved, That the Senate of Pennsylvania urge the President and the Congress of the United States to work with the Commonwealth of Pennsylvania to take all necessary action to ensure that the communities of Horsham, Warminster and Warrington Townships in Montgomery and Bucks Counties have safe drinking water and to direct the EPA and the DOD to use all their resources to discover the extent of the contamination, provide complete remediation, fully evaluate the health consequences and provide assistance to residents and military personnel who have been impacted by the water contamination from these former military installations; and be it further

Resolved, That the Senate of Pennsylvania urge the Congress of the United States to consider the appropriation of additional funds to the EPA and DOD to address this issue; and be it further

Resolved, That copies of this resolution be transmitted to the President of the United States, to the presiding officers of each house of Congress, to each member of Congress from Pennsylvania, to the United States Environmental Protection Agency and to the United States Department of Defense.

POM–221. A resolution adopted by the Senate of the State of Iowa supporting the federal renewable fuel standard; to the Committee on Environment and Public Works.

SENATE RESOLUTION 118

Whereas, in accordance with the federal Energy Policy Act of 2005, Pub. L. No. 109–58, as amended by the federal Energy Independence and Security Act of 2007, Pub. L. No. 110–140, the United States has demonstrated its commitment to the long-term policy of increasing the domestic production of clean renewable fuels according to a renewable fuel standard, referred to as the ''RFS''; and

Whereas, the RFS is the one of the single most successful energy policies in our nation's history; and

Whereas, the RFS is a federal policy that requires a minimum percentage of motor fuel sold in our nation to contain renewable fuels; and

Whereas, under the RFS, renewable fuels have access to a retail market in the face of a vertically integrated petroleum market; and

Whereas, the RFS represents a congressional promise to American biofuels producers, farmers, communities, and investors that the blend levels of the RFS will increase each year; and

Whereas, this congressional policy supporting the RFS will continue to build the long-term capacity of the renewable fuels industry and will encourage the development of new types of clean fuels; and

Whereas, the RFS helps support over 73,000 jobs in agriculture, biofuels production, and associated businesses in Iowa; and

Whereas, the renewable fuels industry in Iowa helps pay $5 billion in wages annually to this state's employment force; and

Whereas, renewable fuels create additional markets for Iowa farmers with more than 47 percent of Iowa's corn supply supporting ethanol production: Now therefore, be it

Resolved by the Senate, That the Iowa Senate calls upon the Congress of the United States, the United States Environmental Protection Agency, the President of the United States, and this country's future President of the United States and administration, to continue to support the RFS in order to encourage American energy production and to strengthen rural communities; and be it further

Resolved, That copies of this Resolution be sent to the President of the United States, the Administrator of the United States Environmental Protection Agency, the President and Secretary of the United States Senate, the Speaker and Clerk of the United States House of Representatives, and to the members of Iowa's congressional delegation.

POM–222. A resolution adopted by the Legislature of the State of California urging the President of the United States and the United States Congress to take all necessary action to restore honor to, and rectify the mistreatment by the United States Military of, any sailors who were unjustly blamed for and convicted of mutiny after the Port Chicago disaster; to the Committee on Environment and Public Works.

SENATE RESOLUTION NO. 69

Whereas, On the night of July 17, 1944, two transport vessels loading ammunition at the Port Chicago naval base on the Sacramento River in California were suddenly engulfed in a gigantic explosion, the incredible blast of which wrecked the naval base and heavily damaged the town of Port Chicago, located 1.5 miles away; and

Whereas, Everyone on the pier and aboard the two ships was killed instantly—some 320 American naval personnel, 200 of whom were African American enlisted men; and another 390 military and civilian personnel were injured, including 226 African American enlisted men; and

Whereas, The two ships and the large loading pier were totally annihilated and an estimated $12,000,000 in property damage was caused by the huge blast; and

Whereas, This single, stunning disaster accounted for nearly one-fifth of all African American naval casualties during the whole of World War II and was the worst homefront disaster of the war; and

Whereas, The specific cause of the explosion was never officially established by a Court of Inquiry, in effect clearing the officers-in-charge of any responsibility for the disaster and, insofar as any human cause was invoked, laying the burden of blame on the shoulders of the African American enlisted men who died in the explosion; and

Whereas, Following the incident, many of the surviving African American sailors were transferred to nearby Camp Shoemaker where they remained until July 31, 1944, when two of the divisions were transferred to naval barracks in Vallejo near Mare Island and another division returned to Port Chicago to help with cleaning up and rebuilding the base; and

Whereas, Many of these men were in a state of shock, troubled by the vivid memory of the horrible explosion; however, they were provided no psychiatric counseling or medical screening, except for those who were obviously physically injured; none of the men, even those who had been hospitalized with injuries, were granted survivor leaves to visit their families before being reassigned to regular duties; and none of these survivors were called to testify at the Court of Inquiry; and

Whereas, Captain Merrill T. Kinne, Officer-in-Charge of Port Chicago, issued a statement praising the African American enlisted men and stating that ''the men displayed creditable coolness and bravery under those emergency conditions''; and

Whereas, After the disaster, white sailors were given 30 days' leave to visit their families—according to survivors, this was the standard for sailors involved in a disaster—while only African American sailors were ordered back to work the next day to clean and remove human remains; and

Whereas, After the disaster, the preparation of Mare Island for the arrival of African American sailors included moving the barracks of white sailors away from the loading area in order to be clear of the ships being loaded in case of another explosion; and

Whereas, The survivors and new personnel who later were ordered to return to loading ammunition expressed their opposition, citing the possibility of another explosion; the first confrontation occurred on August 9, 1944, when 328 men from three divisions were

ordered out to the loading pier; the great majority of the men balked, and eventually 258 were arrested and confined for three days on a large barge tethered to the pier; and

Whereas, Fifty of these men were selected as the ringleaders and charged with mutiny, and on October 24, 1944, after only 80 minutes of a military court, all 50 men were found guilty of mutiny—10 were sentenced to 15 years in prison, 24 sentenced to 12 years, 11 sentenced to 10 years, and 5 sentenced to 8 years; and all were to be dishonorably discharged from the Navy; this was the largest mass mutiny trial in the United States to this day; and

Whereas, After a massive outcry the next year, in January 1946, 47 of the Port Chicago men were released from prison and ''exiled'' for one year overseas before returning to their families; and

Whereas, In a 1994 investigation, the United States Navy stated that ''there is no doubt that racial prejudice was responsible for the posting of only African American enlisted personnel to loading divisions at Port Chicago''; and

Whereas, In the 1994 investigation, the United States Navy, prompted by Members of Congress, admitted that the routine assignment of only African American enlisted personnel to manual labor was clearly motivated by race; and

Whereas, The United States Congress reduced the death benefit to those killed in Port Chicago from $5,000, the normal amount given, to $3,000, simply because the sailors were African American; and

Whereas, in many eases, families of sailors killed in the disaster were never told they were entitled to consideration for the death of their relative; and

Whereas, In 2009, the Port Chicago Naval Magazine Memorial site was designated as part of the National Park Service; and

Whereas, Despite the gross injustice faced by these sailors, only one of the men charged with mutiny was given a pardon by President Clinton in 1998: Now, therefore, be it

Resolved by the Senate of the State of California, That the Senate urges the President and the Congress of the United States to take all necessary action to restore honor to, and rectify the mistreatment by the United States Military of, any sailors who were unjustly blamed for and convicted of mutiny after the Port Chicago disaster, which occurred in the town of Port Chicago, California, in 1944; and be it further

Resolved, That the Senate further urges the President and the Congress of the United States to take action to ensure that the treatment of sailors by the United States Military after the Port Chicago disaster is rectified by providing for the full exoneration of all those who were wrongfully court-martialed and having the military records of those involved cleared of any wrongdoing or discharge references that were other than honorable, regardless of whether those sailors are alive or deceased; and be it further

Resolved, That the Secretary of the Senate transmit copies of this resolution to the President and Vice President of the United States, to the Speaker of the House of Representatives, to the Majority Leader of the Senate, and to each Senator and Representative from California in the Congress of the United States.

POM–223. A joint resolution adopted by the Senate of the State of California urging the passage of H.R. 4745, the Interim Consolidated Storage Act of 2016; to the Committee on Environment and Public Works.

SENATE JOINT RESOLUTION NO. 23

Whereas, Millions of ratepayer and taxpayer dollars are spent monitoring and overseeing spent nuclear fuel each year and millions of dollars more are programmed to be spent on settlement payments related to nuclear waste disposition; and

Whereas, Much of the spent nuclear fuel and high-level radioactive waste currently stored is at sites that are vulnerable to natural disasters and located near large metropolitan centers; and

Whereas, The United States Department of Energy concluded in 2013 that a geologic repository for the permanent disposal of spent nuclear fuel and high-level radioactive waste will not be available until 2048, at the earliest; and

Whereas, The President's Blue Ribbon Commission on America's Nuclear Future recommended that efforts he made to develop a permanent disposal site for spent nuclear fuel and high-level radioactive waste; and

Whereas, The spent nuclear fuel at the San Onofre Nuclear Generating Station, a decommissioning site, should be promptly and safely moved to a consolidated storage site, as recommended by the President's Blue Ribbon Commission on America's Nuclear Future, and as would be advanced by H.R. 4745, the Interim Consolidated Storage Act of 2016, which would give priority for storage to high-level nuclear waste and spent nuclear fuel located on a site without an operating nuclear reactor: Now, therefore, be it

Resolved by the Senate and the Assembly of the State of California, jointly, That the Legislature of the State of California respectfully urges the passage of H.R. 4745 and supports the development and passage of complementary legislation; and be it further

Resolved, That the Legislature of the State of California respectfully urges the United States Department of Energy to implement the prompt and safe relocation of spent nuclear fuel from the San Onofre Nuclear Generating Station to a licensed and regulated interim consolidated storage facility; and be it further

Resolved, That the Secretary of the Senate transmit copies of this resolution to the President of the United States, to the Speaker of the House of Representatives, to the Majority Leader of the Senate, to each Senator and Representative from California in the Congress of the United States, and to the Secretary of Energy.

POM–224. A concurrent memorial adopted by the Legislature of the State of Arizona urging the United States Congress to oppose the implementation of certain rules for existing electric utility generating units; to the Committee on Environment and Public Works.

SENATE CONCURRENT MEMORIAL 2016

Whereas, the Clean Air Act (CAA) is a federal law designed to protect air quality nationwide; and

Whereas, jurisdiction to implement the CAA lies primarily with the states; and

Whereas, in 1970, Congress enacted the CAA, mandating comprehensive state and federal regulations for both stationary and nonstationary sources of pollution; and

Whereas, while Americans support efforts to improve air quality, such efforts should be carefully balanced to ensure that the cost of new regulations on the economy do not exceed potential benefits; and

Whereas, on October 23, 2015, the United States Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) published final rules in the Federal Register regulating greenhouse gas emissions from existing electric utility generating units, also known as the Clean Power Plan; and

Whereas, the EPA has issued a proposed federal plan that will be imposed on existing electric utility generating units in the State of Arizona if the State of Arizona does not adopt its own plan implementing the Clean Power Plan regulating greenhouse gas emissions; and

Whereas, the EPA's Clean Power Plan exceeds the agency's legal authority to require reductions in carbon dioxide emissions from existing fossil fuel-fired electric generating units under Section 111(d) of the CAA and interferes with the electric system of Arizona; and

Whereas, addressing greenhouse gas emissions under Section 111(d) is a discretionary duty of the EPA as outlined in the CAA; and

Whereas, devoting resources to discretionary duties like regulating greenhouse gas emissions takes resources away from nondiscretionary duties that are better suited to protect the public health and safety in the near term; and

Whereas, it is important to Arizona's economy to have a diverse energy portfolio that provides reliable and affordable electric service to Arizona residents and businesses while also protecting the public health and safety; and

Whereas, fossil fuels, including coal and natural gas, provide an abundant and affordable domestic energy source that is important to Arizona's economy and enhance the availability and reliability of electric service; and

Whereas, the EPA's final Clean Power Plan impedes the ability of this state to oversee its own electricity supply and transmission system; and

Whereas, the EPA's Clean Power Plan will have adverse impacts on the customs, culture, history, heritage and economies of this state and local communities.

Wherefore your memorialist, the Senate of the State of Arizona, the House of Representatives concurring, prays:

1. That the United States Congress oppose the implementation of rules for existing electric utility generating units that exceed the EPA's legal authority under Section 111(d) of the CAA and interfere with the prerogative of Arizona to regulate electricity and ensure an affordable and reliable supply of electricity for its citizens.

2. That the United States Congress oppose the implementation of rules for existing electric utility generating units that do not recognize the primary role of states in establishing and implementing plans to achieve emissions reductions for existing units under Section 111(d) of the CAA.

3. That the United States Congress exercise oversight over the EPA to ensure that the primary role of states in establishing and implementing plans to achieve emissions reductions from existing electric utility generating units under Section 111(d) of the CAA is respected.

4. That the Governor and the Attorney General of the State of Arizona take appropriate actions to uphold this state's responsibilities with respect to the CAA and defend this state against overreaching regulations.

5. That the Secretary of State of the State of Arizona transmit a copy of this Memorial to the President of the United States, the President of the United States Senate, the Speaker of the United States House of Representatives, each Member of Congress from the State of Arizona, the Administrator of the United States Environmental Protection Agency, the Governor of the State of Arizona and the Attorney General of the State of Arizona.

POM–225. A concurrent memorial adopted by the Legislature of the State of Arizona urging the United States Environmental Protection Agency to reinstate the previous ozone concentration standard of 75 parts per

billion; to the Committee on Environment and Public Works.

SENATE CONCURRENT MEMORIAL 1007

Whereas, on October 1, 2015, the United States Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) reduced the national ambient air quality standards for ground-level ozone from 75 parts per billion (ppb) to 70 ppb; and

Whereas, the State of Arizona will have great difficulty in implementing this new ozone concentration standard due to factors that are outside of this state's control, including its proximity to California, extreme heat and intense summer sunshine; and

Whereas, before the implementation of the new ozone concentration standard, the EPA reported that 358 counties in the nation would violate a standard of 70 ppb based on monitoring data from 2011 through 2013; and

Whereas, nonattainment area designations will limit economic and job growth by restricting new and expanded industrial and manufacturing facilities, imposing emission ''offset'' requirements on new and modified major sources of nitrogen oxides and volatile organic compounds emissions, constraining oil and gas extraction and raising electricity prices for industries and consumers; and

Whereas, low-income and fixed-income citizens will bear the brunt of higher energy costs and utility bills; and

Whereas, air quality continues to improve, and nitrogen oxide emissions are already down to 60% nationwide since 1980, which, after adjusting for economic growth, implies a 90% reduction in emission rates from the relatively uncontrolled 1990 rates for nitrogen oxide-emitting sources; and

Whereas, average ozone concentrations have decreased significantly in both urban and rural areas over the past two decades in response to state and federal emission control programs; and

Whereas, instead of giving states enough time to meet the previous ozone concentration standard of 75 ppb through ongoing emission reduction programs, the EPA moved the goalpost by imposing a lower standard; and

Whereas, reinstating the previous ozone concentration standard of 75 ppb would provide for continued air quality improvement throughout the nation as emission reduction programs under EPA regulations are implemented.

Wherefore your memorialist, the Senate of the State of Arizona, the House of Representatives concurring, prays:

1. That the United States Environmental Protection Agency reinstate the previous ozone concentration standard of 75 ppb.

2. That the Secretary of State of the State of Arizona transmit copies of this Memorial to the Administrator of the United States Environmental Protection Agency, the President of the United States, the President of the United States Senate, the Speaker of the United States House of Representatives and each Member of Congress from the State of Arizona.

POM–226. A concurrent memorial adopted by the Legislature of the State of Arizona urging the United States Congress to enact the Stopping EPA Overreach Act; to the Committee on Environment and Public Works.

SENATE CONCURRENT MEMORIAL 1015

Whereas, the Stopping EPA Overreach Act seeks to prevent the United States Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) from exceeding its statutory authority in ways that were not contemplated by the United States Congress; and

Whereas, in the Stopping EPA Overreach Act, the State of Arizona urges Congress to find that;

(1) The EPA has exceeded its statutory authority by promulgating regulations that were not contemplated by Congress in the authorizing language of the statutes enacted by Congress;

(2) The EPA was correct not to classify greenhouse gases as pollutants prior to 2009;

(3) No federal agency has the authority to regulate greenhouse gases under current law; and

(4) No attempt to regulate greenhouse gases should be undertaken without further congressional action; and

Whereas, the Stopping EPA Overreach Act should clarify that federal agencies do not have the authority to regulate climate change or global warming, thereby voiding certain EPA rules, and requires the Administrator of the EPA to provide an analysis of any regulation, rule or policy that describes its impacts on employment, and jobs in the United States before proposing or finalizing that regulation, rule or policy; and

Whereas, any federal agency seeking to promulgate a regulation, rule or policy should be required to provide the cost-benefit analysis and peer-reviewed science that were used in proposing the regulation, rule or policy; and

Whereas, penalties should be imposed for knowingly providing false information as support for a proposed regulation, rule or policy; and

Whereas, the people of Arizona fully support the Stopping EPA Overreach Act,

Wherefore your memorialist, the Senate of the State of Arizona, the House of Representatives concurring, prays:

1. That the United States Congress enact the Stopping EPA Overreach Act,

2. That the Secretary of State of the State of Arizona transmit copies of this Memorial to the President of the United States, the Speaker of the United States House of Representatives, the President of the United States Senate and each Member of Congress from the State of Arizona.

POM–227. A concurrent memorial adopted by the Legislature of the State of Arizona urging the United States Environmental Protection Agency to reinstate the previous ozone concentration standard of 75 parts per billion; to the Committee on Environment and Public Works.

SENATE CONCURRENT MEMORIAL 1007

Whereas, on October 1, 2015, the United States Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) reduced the national ambient air quality standards for ground-level ozone from 75 parts per billion (ppb) to 70 ppb; and

Whereas, the State of Arizona will have great difficulty in implementing this new ozone concentration standard due to factors that are outside of this state's control, including its proximity to California, extreme heat and intense summer sunshine; and

Whereas, before the implementation of the new ozone concentration standard, the EPA reported that 358 counties in the nation would violate a standard of 70 ppb based on monitoring data from 2011 through 2013; and

Whereas, nonattainment area designations will limit economic and job growth by restricting new and expanded industrial and manufacturing facilities, imposing emission ''offset'' requirements on new and modified major sources of nitrogen oxides and volatile organic compounds emissions, constraining oil and gas extraction and raising electricity prices for industries and consumers; and

Whereas, low-income and fixed-income citizens will bear the brunt of higher energy costs and utility bills; and

Whereas, air quality continues to improve, and nitrogen oxide emissions are already down to 60% nationwide since 1980, which, after adjusting for economic growth, implies a 90% reduction in emission rates from the relatively uncontrolled 1990 rates for nitrogen oxide-emitting sources; and

Whereas, average ozone concentrations have decreased significantly in both urban and rural areas over the past two decades in response to state and federal emission control programs; and

Whereas, instead of giving states enough time to meet the previous ozone concentration standard of 75 ppb through ongoing emission reduction programs, the EPA moved the goalpost by imposing a lower standard; and

Whereas, reinstating the previous ozone concentration standard of 75 ppb would provide for continued air quality improvement throughout the nation as emission reduction programs under EPA regulations are implemented.

Wherefore your memorialist, the Senate of the State of Arizona, the House of Representatives concurring, prays:

1. That the United States Environmental Protection Agency reinstate the previous ozone concentration standard of 75 ppb.

2. That the Secretary of State of the State of Arizona transmit copies of this Memorial to the Administrator of the United States Environmental Protection Agency, the President of the United States, the President of the United States Senate, the Speaker of the United States House of Representatives and each Member of Congress from the State of Arizona.

POM–228. A concurrent memorial adopted by the Legislature of the State of Arizona urging the United States Congress to oppose the implementation of certain rules for existing electric utility generating units; to the Committee on Environment and Public Works.

SENATE CONCURRENT MEMORIAL 1016

Whereas, the Clean Air Act (CAA) is a federal law designed to protect air quality nationwide; and

Whereas, jurisdiction to implement the CAA lies primarily with the states; and

Whereas, in 1970, Congress enacted the CAA, mandating comprehensive state and-federal regulations for both stationary and nonstationary sources of pollution; and

Whereas, while Americans support efforts to improve air quality, such efforts should be carefully balanced to ensure that the cost of new regulations on the economy do not exceed potential benefits; and

Whereas, on October 23, 2015, the United States Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) published final rules in the Federal Register regulating greenhouse gas emissions from existing electric utility generating units, also known as the Clean Power Plan; and

Whereas, the EPA has issued a proposed federal plan that will be imposed on existing electric utility generating units in the State of Arizona if the State of Arizona does not adopt its own plan implementing the Clean Power Plan regulating greenhouse gas emissions; and

Whereas, the EPA's Clean Power Plan exceeds the agency's legal authority to require reductions in carbon dioxide emissions from existing fossil fuel-fired electric generating units under Section 111(d) of the CAA and interferes with the electric system of Arizona; and

Whereas, addressing greenhouse gas emissions under Section 111(d) is a discretionary duty of the EPA as outlined in the CAA; and

Whereas, devoting resources to discretionary duties like regulating greenhouse gas emissions takes resources away from nondiscretionary duties that are better suited to protect the public health and safety in the near term; and

Whereas, it is important to Arizona's economy to have a diverse energy portfolio that provides reliable and affordable electric service to Arizona residents and businesses while also protecting the public health and safety; and

Whereas, fossil fuels, including coal and natural gas, provide an abundant and affordable domestic energy source that is important to Arizona's economy and enhance the availability and reliability of electric service; and

Whereas, the EPA's final Clean Power Plan impedes the ability of this state to oversee its own electricity supply and transmission system; and

Whereas, the EPA's Clean Power Plan will have adverse impacts on the customs, culture, history, heritage and economies of this state and local communities.

Wherefore, your memorialist, the Senate of the State of Arizona, the House of Representatives concurring, prays:

1. That the United States Congress oppose the implementation of rules for existing electric utility generating units that exceed the EPA's legal authority under Section 111(d) of the CAA and interfere with the prerogative of Arizona to regulate electricity and ensure an affordable and reliable supply of electricity for its citizens,

2. That the United States Congress oppose the implementation of rules for existing electric utility generating units that do not recognize the primary role of states in establishing and implementing plans to achieve emissions reductions for existing units under Section 111(d) of the CAA.

3. That the United States Congress exercise oversight over the EPA to ensure that the primary role of states in establishing and implementing plans to achieve emissions reductions from existing electric utility generating units under Section 111(d) of the CAA is respected.

4. That the Governor and the Attorney General of the State of Arizona take appropriate actions to uphold this state's responsibilities with respect to the CAA and defend this state against overreaching regulations.

5. That the Secretary of State of the State of Arizona transmit a copy of this Memorial to the President of the United States, the President of the United States Senate, the Speaker of the United States House of Representatives, each Member of Congress from the State of Arizona, the Administrator of the United States Environmental Protection Agency, the Governor of the State of Arizona and the attorney General of the State of Arizona,

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POM–229. A concurrent memorial adopted by the Legislature of the State of Arizona urging the United States Congress to enact the Regulatory Integrity Protection Act; to the Committee on Environment and Public Works.

SENATE CONCURRENT MEMORIAL 1008

Whereas, on April 13, 2015, Representative Bill Shuster introduced H.R. 1732, the Regulatory Integrity Protection Act; and

Whereas, the Regulatory Integrity Protection Act protects landowners from intrusive government regulation and ensures the protection of personal property; and

Whereas, the Regulatory. Integrity Protection Act came in response to efforts by the Obama Administration, the United States Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) and the United States Army Corps of Engineers to implement the Clean Water Rule, which vastly expands the federal government's ability to regulate waterways; and

Whereas, the final rule became effective on August 28, 2015; and

Whereas, the final rule is far too broad, allowing the federal government to regulate everything from puddles of rainwater to agricultural irrigation systems; and Whereas, the final rule allows waters that have traditionally been off limits to federal regulation to be subject to the rulemaking process of the EPA and the Clean Water Act; and

Whereas, the customs, cultures and economic well-being of our local communities, as well as important historic and cultural aspects of our local heritage, are being ignored, which adversely affects the lives and jobs of the people of the United States and devastates local and state economies; and

Whereas, the State of Arizona is one of 27 states that have brought legal challenges against the Clean Water Rule and successfully obtained a nationwide stay barring the rule's enforcement; and

Whereas, if passed by Congress, the Regulatory Integrity Protection Act would require the EPA and the United States Army Corps of Engineers to develop a new rule that takes into consideration all public comments received on the matter as well as input received from state and local governments. Wherefore your memorialist, the Senate of the State of Arizona, the House of Representatives concurring, prays:

1. That the Congress of the United States enact the Regulatory Integrity Protection Act.

2. That the Secretary of State of the State of Arizona transmit copies of this Memorial to the President of the United States Senate, the Speaker of the United States House of Representatives and each Member of Congress from the State of Arizona.

POM–230. A concurrent resolution adopted by the Legislature of the State of Louisiana memorializing the United States Congress to take such actions as are necessary to review the Government Pension Offset and the Windfall Elimination Provision Social Security benefit reductions and to consider eliminating or reducing them; to the Committee on Finance.

Whereas, the Congress of the United States of America has enacted both the Government Pension Offset (GPO), reducing the spousal and survivor Social Security benefit, and the Windfall Elimination Provision (WEP), reducing the earned Social Security benefits payable to any person who also receives a public pension benefit; and

Whereas, the GPO negatively affects a spouse or survivor receiving a federal, state, or local government retirement or pension benefit who would also be entitled to a Social Security benefit earned by a spouse; and

Whereas, the GPO formula reduces the spousal or survivor Social Security benefit by two-thirds of the amount of the federal, state, or local government retirement or pension benefit received by the spouse or survivor, in many cases completely eliminating the Social Security benefit even though their spouses paid Social Security taxes for many years; and

Whereas, the GPO has a harsh effect on hundreds of thousands of citizens and undermines the original purpose of the Social Security dependent/survivor benefit; and

Whereas, according to recent Social Security Administration figures, more than half a million individuals nationally are affected by the GPO; and

Whereas, the WEP applies to those persons who have earned federal, state, or local government retirement or pension benefits, in addition to working in employment covered under Social Security and paying into the Social Security system; and

Whereas, the WEP reduces the earned Social Security benefit using an averaged indexed monthly earnings formula and may reduce Social Security benefits for affected persons by as much as one-half of the retirement benefit earned as a public servant in employment not covered under Social Security; and

Whereas, the WEP causes hardworking individuals to lose a significant portion of the Social Security benefits that they earn themselves; and

Whereas, according to recent Social Security Administration figures, more than one and a half million individuals nationally are affected by the WEP; and

Whereas, in certain circumstances both the WEP and GPO can be applied to a qualifying survivor's benefit, each independently reducing the available benefit and in combination eliminating a large portion of the total Social Security benefit available to the survivor; and

Whereas, because of the calculation characteristics of the GPO and the WEP, they have a disproportionately negative effect on employees working in lower-wage government jobs, like policemen, firefighters, teachers, and state employees; and

Whereas, Louisiana is making every effort to improve the quality of life of its citizens and to encourage them to live here lifelong, yet the current GPO and WEP provisions compromise their quality of life; and

Whereas, the number of people affected by GPO and WEP is growing every day as more and more people reach retirement age; and

Whereas, individuals drastically affected by the GPO or WEP may have no choice but to return to work after retirement in order to make ends meet, but the earnings accumulated during this return to work can further reduce the Social Security benefits the individual is entitled to; and

Whereas, the GPO and WEP are established in federal law, and repeal of the GPO and the WEP can only be enacted by congress. Therefore be it

Resolved that the Legislature of Louisiana does hereby memorialize the United States Congress to take such actions as are necessary to review the Government Pension Offset and the Windfall Elimination Provision Social Security benefit reductions and to consider eliminating or reducing them. Be it further

Resolved that a copy of this Resolution be transmitted to the presiding officers of the Senate and the House of Representatives of the Congress of the United States of America and to each member of the Louisiana congressional delegation.

POM–231. A resolution adopted by the House of Representatives of the State of Hawaii requesting the Hawaii sister-state committee to review and consider the establishment of a state/province relationship between the State of Hawaii of the United States of America and the Province of Aklan of the Republic of the Philippines; to the Committee on Foreign Relations.

HOUSE RESOLUTION NO. 77

Whereas, the State of Hawaii is actively seeking to expand its international ties and has an abiding interest in the developing goodwill, friendship, and economic relations between the people of Hawaii and the people of Asian and Pacific countries; and

Whereas, as part of its effort to achieve this goal, Hawaii has established a number of sister-state relationships with provinces in the Pacific region; and

Whereas, because of the historical relationship between the United States of America and the Republic of the Philippines, there continue to exist valid reasons to promote international friendship and understanding for the mutual benefit of both countries to achieve lasting peace and prosperity as it serves the common interests of both countries; and

Whereas, there are historical precedents exemplifying the common desire to maintain a close cultural, commercial, educational, and financial bridge between ethnic Filipinos living in Hawaii with their relatives, friends, and business counterparts in the Philippines, such as the previously established sister-city relationship between the City and County of Honolulu and the City of Cebu in the Province of Cebu; and

Whereas, similar state-province relationships exist between the State of Hawaii and the Provinces of Cebu, Ilocos Norte, Ilocos Sur, Pangasinan, and Isabela, where cooperation and communication have served to establish exchanges in the areas of business, trade, education, agriculture and industry, tourism, disaster preparedness, beach restoration, sports, health care, social welfare, and other fields of human endeavor; and

Whereas, a similar state-province relationship would reinforce and cement this common bridge for understanding and mutual assistance/between ethnic Filipinos of both the State of Hawaii and the Province of Aklan, Republic of the Philippines; and

Whereas, the Province of Aklan has vast fertile land resources, fishery and fabric industries, the world renowned Boracay Island, and Aklan State University; and

Whereas, the major industries of the Province of Aklan are agriculture, including sugarcane, corn, coconut, and rice; tourism; pina fabric; and materials for mats, pots, bags, fans, and décor; and

Whereas, the Province of Aklan is emerging as a technological center in the Central Philippines with its growing business process outsourcing and other technology-related industries; and

Whereas, the Province of Aklan is a top international tourist destination in the Republic of the Philippines, making the province much like Hawaii: Now, therefore, be it

Resolved by the House of Representatives of the Twenty-eighth Legislature of the State of Hawaii, Regular Session of 2016, That there is authorized and established a sister-state/province relationship, as advised by the Hawaii Sister-State Committee, between the State of Hawaii and the Province of Aklan, Republic of the Philippines; and be it Further

Resolved, That the Governor or the Governor's designee is requested to keep the Legislature fully informed of the process in establishing the sister-state/province relationship and involved in its formalization to the extent practicable; and be it further

Resolved, That the Province of Aklan be afforded the privileges and honors that Hawaii extends to its sister-states and provinces; and be it further

Resolved, That if by June 30, 2020, the sister-state/province relationship with the Province of Aklan has not reached a sustainable basis by providing mutual economic benefits through local community support, the sister- state/province relationship shall be withdrawn; and be it further

Resolved, That certified copies of this Resolution be transmitted to the President of the United States, President of the United States Senate, Speaker of the United States House of Representatives, Hawaii's Congressional Delegation, President of the Republic of the Philippines through its Honolulu Consulate General, Governor and Provincial Board of the Province of Aklan, Republic of the Philippines, Governor of the State of Hawaii, the Director of the State Department of Business, Economic Development and Tourism, and the Chairperson of the Hawaii Sister-State Committee.

POM–232. A concurrent memorial adopted by the Legislature of the State of Arizona urging the United States Congress to continue to take action to prevent the United States from entering into the United Nations Arms Trade Treaty or other similar treaties; to the Committee on Foreign Relations.

SENATE CONCURRENT MEMORIAL 1013

Whereas, United Nations (UN) Security Council Resolution 2117, which was adopted on September 26, 2013, ''[c]alls for Member States to support weapons collection, disarmament, demobilization and reintegration of ex-combatants, as well as physical security and stockpile management programmes by United Nations peacekeeping operations where so mandated''; and

Whereas, the UN Arms Trade Treaty strives to place a global ban on the import and export of small firearms, affecting all private gun owners in the United States, and to implement an international gun registry on all private guns and ammunition; and

Whereas, Senator James Inhofe introduced an amendment to the budget in 2013 that would prevent the United States from entering into the United Nations Arms Trade Treaty ''[t]o uphold Second Amendment rights and prevent the United States from entering into the United Nations Arms Trade Treaty,'' which passed on a 53–46 vote.

Wherefore your memorialist, the Senate of the State of Arizona, the House of Representatives concurring, prays:

1. That the United States Congress continue to take action to prevent the United States from entering into the UN Arms Trade Treaty or other similar treaties that would interfere with the Second Amendment rights of United States citizens.

2. That the Secretary of State of the State of Arizona transmit copies of this Memorial to the President of the United States, the Speaker of the United States House of Representatives, the President of the United States Senate and each Member of Congress from the State of Arizona.

POM–233. A memorial adopted by the Senate of the State of Arizona urging the members of the United States Congress from the State of Arizona to officially recognize the persecution of Christians and other religious minorities in the Middle East as genocide; to the Committee on Foreign Relations.

SENATE MEMORIAL 1001

Whereas, Christians, Yazidis and other religious minorities in the Middle East are being subjected to systematic and violent persecution at the hands of the Islamic State of Iraq and Syria (ISIS) and other terrorist groups; and

Whereas, these people are being murdered, kidnapped, sexually abused, tortured and victimized in other ways that violate the laws of their own nations, the international community and the United Nations Convention on the Prevention and Punishment of the Crime of Genocide (Convention); and

Whereas, the victims of this brutal persecution are being specifically targeted based on their religious or ethnic affiliation with the intent to facilitate the annihilation or forced migration of communities with longstanding ties to their region; and

Whereas, the Convention defines ''genocide'' as killing members of a national, ethnic, racial or religious group, causing them serious bodily or mental harm, intentionally enforcing living conditions designed to cause the partial or total physical destruction of the group, preventing births within the group or transferring the children of the group to another group with the intent to destroy the group in total or in part; and

Whereas, the Convention holds that genocide is a crime that governments are obligated to prevent and for which perpetrators are to be held responsible; and

Whereas, the United States Commission on Religious Freedom, the Hudson Institute for Religious Freedom, the International Association of Genocide Scholars, Pope Francis, Hillary Clinton and many other organizations and religious and political leaders have called on the United States to recognize the persecution of Christians and other religious minorities in the Middle East as genocide; and

Whereas, the United States Congress has introduced House Concurrent Resolution 75, Senate Resolution 340 and at least five other bills designed to recognize the genocide and facilitate expedited support and aid for Christians and other religious minorities in the Middle East; and

Whereas, the designation of the persecution of Christians and other religious minorities in the Middle East as genocide has real, practical policy implications and can help expedite various solutions to the crisis; and

Whereas, the Members of the Senate of the State of Arizona officially recognize the persecution of Christians and other religious minorities in the Middle East as genocide.

Wherefore your memorialist, the Senate of the State of Arizona, prays:

1. That each Member of Congress from the State of Arizona cosponsor legislation similar to House Concurrent Resolution 75, support other congressional efforts to aid victims of the persecution of Christians and other religious minorities in the Middle East and encourage the United States government to take greater concrete action to end the genocide.

2. That the Secretary of State of the State of Arizona transmit copies of this Memorial to the President of the United States, the Speaker of the United States House of Representatives, the Majority Leader of the United States Senate and each Member of Congress from the State of Arizona.

POM–234. A concurrent memorial adopted by the Legislature of the State of Arizona urging the President of the United States, the Secretary of State, and the United States Congress to secure the safe release of Robert Levinson from Iran; to the Committee on Foreign Relations.

HOUSE CONCURRENT MEMORIAL 2010

Whereas, it is a time-honored tradition that the United States of America strives to ensure that all United States citizens held captive overseas are returned safely to their families and loved ones; and

Whereas, Robert Levinson honorably served the United States as a law enforcement officer in both the United States Drug Enforcement Agency and the Federal Bureau of Investigation; and

Whereas, Robert Levinson was taken captive on the Kish Island in Iran on March 9, 2007; and

Whereas, several Americans who have been held captive in Iran were recently released, but Robert Levinson was not among them; and

Whereas, it is a duty and obligation of the United States to Robert Levinson and his family to ascertain his whereabouts and secure his safe release.

Wherefore your memorialist, the House of Representatives of the State of Arizona, the Senate concurring, prays:

1. That the President of the United States, the United States Congress, the United States Secretary of State and all public officials under their charge follow the policy of the United States as stated in United States Senate Concurrent Resolution 16:

It is the policy of the United States that—

(1) [T]he Government of the Islamic Republic of Iran should immediately . . . cooperate with the United States Government to locate and return Robert Levinson: and

(2) [T]he United States Government should undertake every effort using every diplomatic tool at its disposal to secure [his] immediate release,

2. That the Secretary of State of the State of Arizona transmit copies of this Memorial to the President of the United States, the Secretary of State of the United States, the Speaker of the United States House of Representatives, the President of the United States Senate and each Member of Congress from the State of Arizona.

POM–235. A joint resolution adopted by the Legislature of the State of California relative to women's reproductive health; to the Committee on Health, Education, Labor, and Pensions.

SENATE JOINT RESOLUTION NO. 19

Whereas, January 22, 2016, marks the anniversary of the United States Supreme Court's landmark decision in Roe v. Wade, which acknowledged that every woman has a fundamental right to control her own reproductive decisions and decide whether to end or continue a pregnancy, and is an occasion that deserves recognition; and

Whereas, The 1973 Roe v. Wade decision, making access to abortion safe and legal, has greatly improved the health of women and families; and

Whereas, Roe v. Wade has been the cornerstone of women's remarkable strides toward equality in the past four decades, and reproductive freedom is critical to a woman's ability to participate fully in the social, political, and economic life of the community; and

Whereas, California is committed to protecting the public health and welfare of all its residents, and recognizes that access to reproductive health services, including family planning and prenatal care, supports individuals and their families by ensuring that babies are planned, wanted, and healthy; and

Whereas, California recognizes the importance of Planned Parenthood as one of California's largest providers of women's preventive and reproductive health care services, operating 115 community-based health centers across the state, which provide more than 1.6 million patient visits a year; and

Whereas, Planned Parenthood provides comprehensive health care services to women and men, which may include well-woman examinations, birth control, testing and treatment of sexually transmitted infections and HIV, pregnancy tests, life-saving cancer screenings, sex education, prenatal care, primary care services, and abortion services; and

Whereas, Nationwide, during 4.6 million health center visits in 2013, Planned Parenthood provided services, including nearly 400,000 Pap smear tests, 500,000 breast examinations, 1.1 million pregnancy tests, 3.6 million provisions of birth control information and services, and 4.5 million tests and treatments for sexually transmitted illnesses (including HIV), to approximately 2.7 million patients, almost 80 percent of whom were living with incomes at or below 150 percent of the federal poverty level; and

Whereas, By providing millions of women with access to contraceptive services, public funding of Planned Parenthood helps women to avoid an estimated 516,000 unplanned pregnancies each year nationwide; and

Whereas, A sudden defunding of Planned Parenthood's health centers by federal or state governments would put patients across California, particularly members of underserved communities, at a significant disadvantage relating to their general health care because Planned Parenthood is often the only source of health care services for so many Californians; and

Whereas, Violence against abortion providers and laws that create barriers to abortion endanger the lives of both men and women; and

Whereas, Reports have found that threats of harassment, intimidation, and violence against women's health clinics have doubled since 2010, and as recently as November 27, 2015, a Planned Parenthood clinic was the target of a heinous act of domestic terrorism which resulted in the deaths of three people and nonfatal injuries to nine others; and

Whereas, The State of California stands in strong support of Roe v. Wade and the work of Planned Parenthood, and of women's reproductive health, and respects the principle that each woman has a fundamental right to make decisions regarding her pregnancy; Now, therefore, be it

Resolved by the Senate and the Assembly of the State of California, jointly, That the Legislature urges the President of the United States and Congress to express their support for access to comprehensive reproductive health care, including the services provided by Planned Parenthood and a woman's fundamental right to control her own reproductive decisions, and to strongly oppose efforts to eliminate federal funding for Planned Parenthood; and be it further

Resolved, That the Secretary of the Senate transmit copies of this resolution to the President and Vice President of the United States, to the Speaker of the House of Representatives, to the Majority Leader of the Senate, and to each Senator and Representative from California in the Congress of the United States.

POM–236. A resolution adopted by the Senate of the State of California requesting the United States Congress to pass the Helping Families in Mental Health Crisis Act of 2016 and that the President of the United States sign the legislation; to the Committee on Health, Education, Labor, and Pensions.

SENATE RESOLUTION NO. 86

Whereas, The Helping Families in Mental Health Crisis Act of 2016 (the act) would make available needed psychiatric, psychological, and supportive services for individuals with mental illness and families in mental health crisis; and

Whereas, The act would enhance crisis response services, increase mental health workforce, promote early intervention for mental illness, and support integration of mental health, substance use, and primary care; and

Whereas, Mental illness affects all segments of society, and can have a devastating effect on the lives and families it touches, especially if left untreated; and

Whereas, Nearly 10 million Americans have serious mental illness, but millions are going without treatment as families struggle to find care for their loved ones; and

Whereas, The act has wide bipartisan support and recently passed out of the House Committee on Energy and Commerce by a vote of 53–0: Now, therefore, be it

Resolved by the Senate of the State of California, That the Senate of the State of California requests the Congress of the United States to pass the Helping Families in Mental Health Crisis Act of 2016 (H.R. 2646), and further requests President Barack Obama to sign that legislation; and be it further

Resolved, That the Secretary of the Senate transmit copies of this resolution to the President and Vice President of the United States, to the Speaker of the House of Representatives, to the Majority Leader of the Senate, to each Senator and Representative from California in the Congress of the United States, and to the author for appropriate distribution.

POM–237. A joint resolution adopted by the Legislature of the State of California relative to EpiPen; to the Committee on Health, Education, Labor, and Pensions.

SENATE JOINT RESOLUTION NO. 29

Whereas, Millions benefit from lifesaving drugs and devices, including Americans with allergies that can be treated by epinephrine; and

Whereas, Last year, doctors wrote 3.6 million prescriptions for EpiPen, which stops allergic reactions by quickly and safely injecting epinephrine; and

Whereas, In 2007 Mylan NV purchased the rights to EpiPen and immediately began raising its price. In 2008 and 2009, Mylan raised the price by 5 percent, and at the end of 2009 it raised the price by another 19 percent. From 2010 to 2013, Mylan imposed a series of 10-percent price hikes. And from the fourth quarter of 2013 to the second quarter of 2016, Mylan raised EpiPen prices 15 percent every other quarter; and

Whereas, A pack of two EpiPen devices now has a list price of over $600, an increase of 548 percent since Mylan began selling the drug, according to Truven Health Analytics; and

Whereas, The formula of EpiPen did not change, and it is no more effective in protecting against allergic reactions in 2016 than it was in 2007; and

Whereas, During the same time, Mylan began an aggressive marketing and lobbying effort to increase demand for EpiPen, which included the passage of federal and state legislation. The United States Congress passed the School Access to Emergency Epinephrine Act in 2013 to provide an incentive to states to boost the stockpile of epinephrine at schools. A number of states, including California, passed laws requiring public schools to have epinephrine. In 2010, the United States Food and Drug Administration (FDA) changed its recommendations so that two EpiPen devices be sold in a package instead of one and that they be prescribed for at-risk patients, not just those with confirmed allergies; and

Whereas, The rising cost of EpiPen has implications for taxpayers. Over half of California's children are insured through Medi-Cal, therefore the taxpayers are paying a large share of the cost of this medication; and

Whereas, Mylan has an effective monopoly that it is using to maximize profit because there is no equivalent generic competitor; and

Whereas, Patients who have to pay retail prices are being forced to buy EpiPen abroad, where it is cheaper, and are resorting to other devices that deliver epinephrine, including do-it-yourself syringes; and

Whereas, Even some ambulance providers in California have stopped the use of EpiPen to treat allergic shock and instead are drawing from a vial and injecting epinephrine by syringe. First responders in Seattle have developed such a kit and have sold them to public health agencies in five other states. There is a demonstration project in New York called ''Check and Inject New York'' that trains first responders to use syringe epinephrine kits in place of EpiPen to save money; and

Whereas, After recent widespread criticism, Mylan said it would expand access and increase benefits to programs that it uses to help consumers pay less, but those changes do not alter the prices that insurers and employers pay. Those institutions will still face the brunt of the impact from the price hikes; and

Whereas, Offering copayment assistance and free product to consumers is part of the standard playbook for manufacturers of expensive drugs. Efforts by drug makers to shield consumers from the out-of-pocket costs associated with the rapidly increasing cost of their medications ignores the fact that insurance companies bear the brunt of

these unreasonable price increases, which results in higher premiums for all consumers; Now, therefore, be it

Resolved by the Senate and the Assembly of the State of California, jointly, That the Legislature declares unnecessary and unexplained increases in pharmaceutical pricing is a harm to our health care system that will no longer be tolerated because the system cannot sustain it; and be it further

Resolved, That the Legislature urges the United States Food and Drug Administration to reconsider its denial of approval for generic alternatives to EpiPen; and be it further

Resolved, That the Legislature urges the Congress of the United States to investigate the impact that Mylan's monopoly has had on the price hikes for EpiPen; and be it further

Resolved, That the Legislature urges the Congress and President of the United States to take action to limit the unrestrained ability of drug manufacturers to increase prices based only on what the market can bear rather than on providing a fair return on investment; and be it further

Resolved, That the Secretary of the Senate transmit copies of this resolution to the President and Vice President of the United States, to the Speaker of the House of Representatives, to the Majority Leader of the Senate, to each Senator and Representative from California in the Congress of the United States, to the Secretary of the United States Department of Health and Human Services, and to the Commissioner of Food and Drugs, and to the author for appropriate distribution.

POM–238. A joint resolution adopted by the Legislature of the State of California relative to blood donations; to the Committee on Health, Education, Labor, and Pensions.

SENATE JOINT RESOLUTION NO. 26

Whereas, Since 1983, the United States Food and Drug Administration (FDA), an agency under the United States Department of Health and Human Services (HHS), had prohibited the donation of blood by any man who has had sex with another man (MSM) at any time since 1977; and

Whereas, In December 2015, based on recommendations from the NHS Advisory Committee on Blood and Tissue Safety and Availability, the FDA promulgated revised regulations to allow an MSM to donate blood only if he has not been sexually active for the past 12 months. Despite these recent steps toward a policy change, a double standard still exists under the policy as revised because it still treats gay and bisexual men differently from heterosexual men; and

Whereas, California law prohibits discrimination against individuals on the basis of actual or perceived sex, sexual orientation, gender identity, and gender-related appearance and behavior; and

Whereas, Argentina, Italy, Mexico, Poland, Portugal, Russia, South Africa, South Korea, and Spain have adopted blood donor policies that measure risk against a set of behaviors, sexual and otherwise, rather than the sex of a person's sexual partner or partners; and

Whereas, The FDA currently does not allow gay and bisexual men in committed relationships to donate blood because, while one partner may be monogamous, that individual cannot guarantee that the other partner is monogamous. The FDA does not apply this same logic to heterosexual relationships, which in effect discriminates against gay and bisexual men; and

Whereas, The FDA is in the process of again reevaluating and considering updating its blood donor deferral policies as new scientific information becomes available, including the feasibility of moving from the existing time-based deferrals related to risk behaviors to alternate deferral options, such as the use of individual risk assessments; and

Whereas, A 12-month deferral policy for gay and bisexual men to donate blood is overly stringent given the scientific evidence, advanced testing methods, and the safety and quality control measures in place within the different FDA-qualified blood donating centers; and

Whereas, The American Public Health Association has stated that no specific scientific rationale is provided to justify the 12-month deferral policy. The technology can identify within 7 to 10 days with 99.9 percent accuracy whether or not a blood sample is HIV-positive, and the chance of the blood test being inaccurate within the 10-day window is about 1 in 2,000,000; and

Whereas, The General Social Survey conducted by NORC at the University of Chicago estimates that 8.5 percent of men in the United States have had at least one male sex partner since 18 years of age, 4.1 percent of men report at least one male sex partner in the last 5 years, and 3.8 percent report a male sex partner in the last 12 months; and

Whereas, An estimated 45.4 percent of men (54 million) in the United States are eligible to donate blood, but only 8.7 percent of eligible men actually do. There are 15.7 million donations of blood per year made by 9.2 million donors, yielding approximately 1.7 donations per donor; and

Whereas, The Williams Institute of the University of California at Los Angeles School of Law estimates that, based on the population of eligible and likely donors among the MSM community, lifting the federal lifetime deferral policy on blood donation by an MSM would result in 4.2 million newly eligible male donors, of which 360,600 would likely donate, generating 615,300 additional pints of blood. Applying national estimates to the California population, the Institute further estimates that lifting the ban on MSM blood donations would add an additional 510,000 eligible men to the current blood donor pool, of which 43,917 would likely donate, resulting in an additional 74,945 donated pints in California; and

Whereas, One hundred fifteen members of the Congress of the United States sent a letter to the FDA Commissioner, Dr. Robert M. Califf, M.D., urging him to finally put an end to this outdated blood donation policy and update it to reflect science, not fear; Now, therefore, be it

Resolved by the Senate and the Assrmbly of the State of California, jointly, That the California State Legislature calls upon the President of the United States to encourage the Secretary of the United States Department of Health and Human Services to adopt policies to repeal the current discriminatory donor suitability policies of the United States Food and Drug Administration (FDA) regarding blood donations by men who have had sex with another man and, instead, direct the FDA to develop science-based policies such as criteria based on risky behavior in lieu of sexual orientation; and be it further

Resolved, That the Secretary of the Senate transmit copies of this resolution to the President and Vice President of the United States, to the Secretary of the United States Department of Health and Human Services, to the Speaker of the House of Representatives, to the Majority Leader of the Senate, and to each Senator and Representative from California in the Congress of the United States.

POM–239. A concurrent memorial adopted by the Legislature of the State of Arizona urging the United States Congress to protest and take action to fully restore the Tucson Postal Processing and Distribution Center; to the Committee on Homeland Security and Governmental Affairs.

SENATE CONCURRENT MEMORIAL 1009

Whereas, the Tucson Postal Processing and Distribution Center (Cherrybell) serves the entire southern portion of Arizona covering the counties of Pima, Santa Cruz and Cochise. Currently, Southern Arizona is facing a potential economic downfall due to the initial decision made by the United States Postal Service (USPS) Board of Governors to close Cherrybell; and

Whereas, more than 1.8 million people and 23,197 businesses use the Cherrybell postal services. According to USPS officials, over 3 million pieces of mail go through Cherrybell each day as it is the 15th largest facility serving the 33rd largest population area in our nation. The processing and sorting operations at Cherrybell that are proposed to be moved to Phoenix affect approximately 280 jobs in Southern Arizona; and

Whereas, Southern Arizona, which includes both the Tohono O'odham nation and Pasqua Yaqui tribal lands, encompasses the California and Arizona border at Yuma south to Nogales, across to Douglas and Bisbee in Cochise County and the military installations located at Fort Huachuca and Davis Monthan, depends on the Cherrybell Post office; and

Whereas, Southern Arizona is home to many military veterans who depend on the USPS both for timely delivery of medical prescriptions and for employment, as the USPS employs more veterans than any entity other than the United States Department of Defense; and

Whereas, in an extensive community survey conducted in 2015, 84% of individuals and 86% of businesses reported a noticeable delay in mail delivery due to the partial closure of Cherrybell; and

Whereas, Tucson City Council Member Richard Fimbres went on record opposing the closure of Cherrybell and requested that the Council work directly with Tucson's congressional delegation and community members to frame a campaign to protect the vital jobs at Cherrybell; and

Whereas, Pima County Recorder F. Ann Rodriguez objects to the closure of Cherrybell and firmly believes that, due to the higher number of voters each year on the permanent early voting list, this change will clearly impact the activities of the state and county elections officials in Arizona and will cause a detrimental impact to voters. The information provided to the public by the USPS is based entirely on economic considerations with no apparent regard for the impact of the change on the fundamental right of all citizens to vote and, in particular, the significant additional detrimental impact to Native American voters in the region; and

Whereas, the people of Arizona applaud the efforts of United States Representative Martha McSally and the other members of the Arizona Congressional Delegation, including Representatives Trent Franks, Ann Kirkpatrick, Matt Salmon, Paul Gosar, Ruben Gallego, Kyrsten Sinema and Raul Grijalva, who have asked for more detailed and complete information regarding the proposal Cherrybell closure; and

Whereas, thousands of people have written letters and signed online petitions urging the USPS Board of Governors not to close Cherrybell.

Wherefore your memorialist, the Senate of the State of Arizona, the House of Representatives concurring, prays:

1. That the Congress of the United States protest the proposed closing of the Tucson

Postal Processing and Distribution Center and take any action necessary to fully restore operations of this vital postal facility.

2. That the Secretary of State of the State of Arizona transmit copies of this Memorial to the President of the United States Senate, the Speaker of the United States House of Representatives and each Member of Congress from the State of Arizona.

POM–240. A concurrent memorial adopted by the Legislature of the State of Arizona urging the United States Congress to act to increase the number of United States Customs and Border Protection personnel at the ports of entry in Arizona; to the Committee on Homeland Security and Governmental Affairs.

SENATE CONCURRENT MEMORIAL 1006

Whereas, the United States Customs and Border Protection (CBP) is one of the world's largest law enforcement organizations and is charged with keeping terrorists and their weapons out of the United States while facilitating lawful international travel and trade; and

Whereas, as the world's first full-service border entity, CBP takes a comprehensive approach to border management and control, combining customs, immigration, border security and agricultural protection into one coordinated and supportive activity; and

Whereas, the need to increase the number of CBP personnel in the Tucson sector along the border between the United States and Mexico is critical to increasing border safety and security as well as to ensuring economic stability in our border communities; and

Whereas, increasing the number of CBP personnel who work at the ports of entry in Arizona will enhance the economic stability in our border communities and will increase border security between the United States and Mexico; and

Whereas, an integrated approach to securing the border and increasing economic stability along the border and in our border communities is important to residents living along the border and in our border communities; and

Whereas, increasing the number of CBP personnel at the ports of entry in Arizona will allow increased commercial traffic and will result in increased economic growth and stability for Arizona; and

Whereas, all of the benefits of increased economic stability in Arizona can be realized if the workload capacity at each port of entry is increased, which would result in less congestion and delay; and

Whereas, increasing the number of CBP personnel at the ports of entry in Arizona should be part of the infrastructure improvements that are occurring at the ports of entry; and

Whereas, the establishment of a safe and secure border is a crucial component of national security.

Wherefore your memorialist, the Senate of the State of Arizona, the House of Representatives concurring, prays:

1. That, in order to secure the border between the United States and Mexico, to enhance the safety and security of people and their property in the currently unsecure regions of the border and to increase economic growth and stability for the residents of Arizona, the United States Congress act to increase the number of CBP personnel at the ports of entry in Arizona.

2. That the Secretary of State of the State of Arizona transmit a copy of this Memorial to the President of the United States Senate, the Speaker of the United States House of Representatives and each Member of Congress from the State of Arizona.

POM–241. A joint resolution adopted by the Legislature of the State of California urging the United States Congress to appropriate $248 million in funding to complete Phase 2 of the Calexico West Land Port of Entry reconfiguration and expansion project in order to realize the benefits the improvements of this project will have on the nation's economy; to the Committee on Homeland Security and Governmental Affairs.

SENATE JOINT RESOLUTION NO. 22

Whereas, The inclusion of $248 million in funding for Phase 2 of the Calexico West Land Port of Entry reconfiguration and expansion project in the Financial Services and General Government Appropriations bill is proposed by the President's Fiscal Year 2017 Budget; and

Whereas, This funding will ensure completion of the project, which will improve domestic supply chains, strengthen our national security, reduce the port's carbon footprint, and facilitate economic growth, not only for the County of Imperial and for California, but for the entire nation; and

Whereas, The Obama Administration's 2015 budget included a $98,062,000 investment in Calexico West Land Port of Entry Phase 1. This first phase of the expansion project is currently underway and is expected to be completed in 2018. Phase 2 will consist of the balance of the project, including additional sitework, an expanded pedestrian processing facility, administrative offices, and six additional northbound privately owned vehicle inspection lanes; and

Whereas, The completion of this project guarantees the economic activity of the border will not be lost. On an average day, more than 15,000 to 20,000 privately operated vehicles and nearly 20,000 pedestrians enter the United States through the Calexico Land Port of Entry; and

Whereas, The United States' goods and private services trade with Mexico totaled an estimated $583.6 billion in 2015, with exports totaling $267.2 billion and imports totaling $316.4 billion; and

Whereas, Mexico is currently our second largest goods trading partner with almost $72 billion in two-way trade of goods during 2015, with goods exports that totaled $26.8 billion and goods imports that totaled $45 billion; and

Whereas, Ninety-nine percent of trade between California and Mexico is carried by trucks, and the Calexico East Port of Entry serves nearly all of the international truck traffic crossings in the County of Imperial, with a total trade value of over $12 billion in 2012; and

Whereas, The San Diego Association of Governments 2050 Comprehensive Freight Gateway Study projects that the nearly two million trucks that crossed the California-Mexico border in 2007 will increase to nearly five million trucks in 2050; and

Whereas, Traffic congestion and delays at the borders of the Counties of San Diego and Imperial cost the economies of the United States and Mexico an estimated $8.63 billion in gross output and more than 73,900 jobs in 2007; and

Whereas, The collaboration between federal, state, and local agencies is essential for the development of border infrastructure projects and security; and

Whereas, The United States General Accountability Office and the United States Department of Homeland Security estimate that $6 billion in border infrastructure is needed to fulfill their mission of preventing unlawful entry and smuggling while facilitating legitimate trade and tourism: Now, therefore, be it

Resolved by the Senate and the Assembly of the State of California, jointly, That the legislature of the State of California respectfully urges Congress to appropriate $248 million in funding to complete Phase 2 of the Calexico West Land Port of Entry reconfiguration and expansion project in order to realize the benefits the improvements of this project will have on the nation's economy; and be it further

Resolved, That the Secretary of the Senate transmit copies of this resolution to the President and Vice President of the United States, to the Speaker of the House of Representatives, to the Majority Leader of the Senate, and to each Senator and Representative from California in the Congress of the United States.

POM–242. A concurrent memorial adopted by the Legislature of the State of Arizona urging the United States Congress to enact the Diné College Act of 2015; to the Committee on Indian Affairs.

SENATE CONCURRENT MEMORIAL 1017

Whereas, this state and the Navajo Nation maintain a government-to-government relationship, and the Navajo people residing in this state are citizens of both Arizona and the Navajo Nation; and

Whereas, in 1968, the Navajo Nation established Navajo Community College, which later became Diné College, to provide access to higher education to the Navajo people; and

Whereas, Diné College's flagship campus is located in Tsaile, Arizona, and there are community campuses in Tuba City, Chinle and Window Rock; and

Whereas, Diné College has dual credit agreements with school districts and schools throughout Arizona, including Red Mesa Unified School District #27, Chinle Unified School District #24, Ganado Unified School District, St. Michaels High School, Window Rock Unified School District #8, Many Farms High School, Kayenta Unified School District, Piñon Unified School District #4, Greyhills Academy High School, Tuba City High School, Leupp Schools, Inc. and Phoenix Union High School District; and

Whereas, this state provides support to Diné College through its Navajo Nation, Diné College-State of Arizona funding compact, the tribal college dual credit funding program and Proposition 301 monies; and

Whereas, the United States Congress passed the Navajo Community College Act, the Navajo Community College Assistance Act of 1978 and the Navajo Nation Higher Education Act of 2008, which collectively provide for maintenance, operation and construction funding for Diné College; and

Whereas, Representative Ann Kirkpatrick introduced the Diné College Act of 2015 ''to fulfill the United States Government's trust responsibility to serve the higher education needs of the Navajo people and to clarify, unify, and modernize prior Diné College legislation,'' and Diné College has requested that Senator Jeff Flake introduce a United States Senate companion bill; and

Whereas, this state stands in support of the passage of the Diné College Act of 2015.

Wherefore your memorialist, the Senate of the State of Arizona, the House of Representatives concurring, prays:

1. That the Congress of the United States enact the Diné College Act of 2015.

2. That the Secretary of State of the State of Arizona transmit copies of this Memorial to the Governor of the State of Arizona, the President of the United States Senate, the Speaker of the United States House of Representatives and each Member of Congress from the State of Arizona.

POM–243. A joint resolution adopted by the Legislature of the State of California urging the federal government to ensure that immigrant children are afforded due process under

the law in removal proceedings by providing government-funded attorneys, trained in immigration law, to all indigent children seeking an immigration remedy and urging the federal government to first hear cases involving children that have legal counsel and to immediately halt cases brought against unrepresented immigrant children until lawyers are made available to represent them; to the Committee on the Judiciary.

SENATE JOINT RESOLUTION NO. 28

Whereas, The Fifth Amendment to the United States Constitution provides that a person shall not be deprived of life, liberty, or property without due process of law, thereby ensuring that he or she will receive a fundamentally fair, orderly, and just judicial proceeding before being deprived of his or her freedom; and

Whereas, Former Assistant Chief Immigration Judge Jack H. Weil, a senior official in the United States Department of Justice; asserted in a deposition that he has trained toddlers in immigration law and can afford them a fair hearing without the toddler being represented by legal counsel; and

Whereas, The assertion made by Judge Weil is contemptible and offensive to our country's Fifth Amendment constitutional mandate to provide all with due process under the law; and

Whereas, Due process cannot be guaranteed in an adversarial immigration removal proceeding without legal representation; and

Whereas, Article 14 of the Universal Declaration of Human Rights, adopted in 1948, states that ''Everyone has the right to seek and to enjoy in other countries asylum from persecution.'' Accordingly, children escaping from violence in other countries, whether unaccompanied or accompanied by a parent, are not ''illegal'' when they come to the United States in search of asylum; and

Whereas, The protections of Article 14 have been incorporated by the United States Congress into domestic law, which now protects all asylum seekers, including children, by prohibiting the federal government from returning to their home countries persons who have fled persecution due to race, religion, nationality, political opinion, or membership in a particular social group; and

Whereas, It is our nation's legal and moral obligation to open our arms to children who fear harm in their country of origin and to foreign-born children in the United States who cannot be reunified with one or both parents due to abuse, neglect, or abandonment and who are therefore eligible for Special Immigrant Juvenile Status or any other immigration remedy; and

Whereas, Respect for due process requires that all indigent children seeking asylum, Special Immigrant Juvenile Status, or other immigration remedies in defense of deportation be afforded government-funded competent immigrant counsel; and

Whereas, According to a study by the Transactional Records Access Clearinghouse, the foremost authority on federal immigration enforcement data, unrepresented children were ordered to leave the United States in 86 percent of cases, whereas represented children were ordered to leave the United States in only 16 percent of cases; and

Whereas, As demonstrated by the same study, the provision of legal representation would improve the integrity of the immigration court system, because children without legal representation fail to appear in court and therefore are ordered removed in absentia in 75 percent of cases. By comparison, children with legal representation do consistently appear in court and are therefore ordered removed in absentia in only 3 percent of cases; and

Whereas, The federal government is denying indigent immigrant children in California their rights to a fair trial under the Fifth Amendment to the United States Constitution because the federal government does not provide these children with legal representation in immigration court. These children therefore face the threat of deportation to violent and dangerous conditions where they may face persecution, violence, or even death; and

Whereas, Human Rights Watch filed an amicus brief in the case of J.E.F.M. v Lynch, a nationwide lawsuit on behalf of thousands of children who are challenging the federal government's failure to provide the children with legal representation in deportation hearings, arguing that the failure of the United States government to appoint lawyers to represent immigrant children facing deportation violates their basic rights under international law; and

Whereas, The California Attorney General has engaged in efforts to close the legal services gap for unaccompanied immigrant children across California and joined an amicus brief in J.E.F.M. v. Lynch.

Whereas, Since January 2014, at least 83 deportees, including children, from the United States, were reported murdered upon their return to Guatemala, Honduras, and El Salvador, which remain three of the most violent countries in the world; and

Whereas, There are currently over 13,800 children in California that are not represented by legal counsel in immigration court; and

Whereas, California has a duty to protect the welfare of children within our state, including immigrant children; and

Whereas, California values immigrant children and has made this clear through legislative enactments, including Assembly Bill 540 (2001), Assembly Bills 130 and 131 (2011); commonly referred to as the California Dream Act, Senate Bill 1064 (2012), Senate Bill 873 (2014); commonly referred to as the Unaccompanied Minors Program, Senate Bill 1210 (2014), commonly referred to as the California DREAM Loan Program, and Senate Bills 4 and 75 (2015), commonly referred to as the Health4All Kids Act; and

Whereas, Special Immigrant Juvenile Status under Section 1101(a)(27)(J) of Title 8 of the United States Code is immigration relief that relies on a state's interest in the welfare of children and provides for Special Immigrant Juvenile Status where a state court determines that reunification with one or both of the immigrant's parents is not viable due to abuse, neglect, abandonment, or similar basis found under state law and that it would not be in the child's best interest to return to his or her home country; and

Whereas, California makes an annual $3 million investment to ensure that unaccompanied minors receive the legal representation that they need to pursue Special Immigrant Juvenile Status and other immigration relief; and

Whereas, California passed Senate Bill 873 (2014) and Assembly Bill 900 (2015) to ensure that California courts issue the predicate orders necessary for children to apply for Special Immigrant Juvenile Status; and

Whereas, California is disadvantaged when California's children are denied their rights under the United States Constitution, including their right to due process; and

Whereas, California has a strong interest in ensuring that the children living in this state are not unfairly deported. Schools are disrupted when children are pulled from classes, communities are thrown into disorder when families are torn apart, the health and welfare of these children are put at risk; and the state is denied the potential societal and economic contributions of these children: Now, therefore, be it

Resolved by the Senate and the Assembly of the State of California, jointly, That the Legislature of the State of California urges the federal government to take action to remedy this injury to the State of California, through appropriate measures within the United States Department of Justice, the United States Department of Homeland Security, and the Office of Refugee Resettlement, and ensure that immigrant children are afforded due process under the law when they are fighting to remain in the United States of America, by providing government-funded attorneys, trained in immigration law, to all indigent children fighting deportation and seeking an immigration remedy; and be it further

Resolved, That the Legislature of the State of California urges the federal government to rearrange its dockets to first hear the cases of children who have legal representation and to immediately halt cases it is pursuing against unrepresented immigrant children until lawyers are made available to represent them; and be it further

Resolved, That the Secretary of the Senate transmit copies of this resolution to the President and Vice President of the United States, to the Speaker of the House of Representatives, to the Majority Leader of the Senate, to each Senator and Representative from California in the Congress of the United States, and to the author for appropriate distribution.

POM–244. A resolution adopted by the House of Representatives of the State of Louisiana memorializing the United States Congress to take such actions as are necessary to reimburse the state of Louisiana for state-expended dollars used to comply with federal mandates related to illegal immigration including but not limited to education, medical care, welfare, and law enforcement services; to the Committee on the Judiciary.

HOUSE RESOLUTION NO. 219

Whereas, pursuant to Article I, Section 8, Clause 4 of the Constitution of the United States, the federal government has the authority to regulate immigration; and

Whereas, the federal government has forced states to comply with federal mandates that require states to provide various essential services to illegal immigrants including but not limited to education, medical care, welfare, and law enforcement, with little to no reimbursement of state-expended costs; and

Whereas, the federal government historically has failed to adequately control the influx of undocumented immigrants into this country; and

Whereas, the failure of the federal government to adequately control the borders, in addition to the imposition of huge mandated but unreimbursed costs to the state of Louisiana, has led to blatant inequities in terms of exploitation of undocumented laborers and abuse of wage, safety, and child labor laws, as well as lowering wage levels for Louisiana's working poor; and

Whereas, the state of Louisiana has been severely affected by the impact of state budgetary cutbacks; and

Whereas, the costs incurred by the state of Louisiana in addressing illegal immigration are increasing and continuing to burden the limited resources of the state; and

Whereas, the Louisiana Legislature created the Task Force on Illegal Immigration (task force) by House Resolution No. 175 of the 2015 Regular Session of the Legislature to study and report the fiscal, medical, nutritional, educational, judicial, criminal, penal, and economic impact of federal mandates on the state of Louisiana relative to illegal immigration; and

Whereas, the purpose of the task force was to provide useful and critical information

and statistical data to guide the efforts of Louisiana's private and public sectors in addressing the concerns of Louisiana residents regarding illegal immigration; and

Whereas, during the task force meeting held on October 22, 2015, task force members were presented with statistical data and information on the fiscal impact on the state of Louisiana associated with providing essential services to undocumented immigrants. Estimated dollar amounts were provided by the following state agencies:

(1) The Department of Public Safety and Corrections presented information on the impact of incarcerating illegal immigrants in Louisiana state correctional institutions including incarceration and probation and parole costs. The estimated cost to the state of Louisiana is approximately three million two hundred ninety thousand dollars ($3,290,000) annually out of the state general fund.

(2) The Department of Education presented information on the impact on the Louisiana school system relative to the enrollment of non-United States citizens and data on the number of English Language Learners (ELL) for Louisiana public and charter schools for K–12. The estimated cost to the state of Louisiana for one public school district is approximately three million dollars ($3,000,000) annually.

(3) The Department of Health and Hospitals presented information regarding federally mandated Medicaid services for undocumented workers including Medicaid eligibility requirements for unborn children and the costs attributed to illegal immigration on Louisiana's medical systems as a whole. The estimated cost to the state of Louisiana is approximately sixteen million one hundred thousand dollars ($16,100,000) annually, assisting nearly five thousand (5,000) individuals with unverified immigration status.

(4) The Department of Children and Family Services presented information on the eligibility of non-United States citizens for the Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program (SNAP) and the Temporary Assistance for Needy Families (TANF). Based on testimony, public assistance was provided to a population of five thousand three hundred ninety-nine (5,399) non-United States citizens through Louisiana's SNAP program with a total cost to 1 the state of Louisiana of fifty-five million dollars ($55,000,000) in administrative costs, with an undetermined amount attributed to illegal immigrants.

Whereas, the state of Louisiana in conjunction with local governments expends approximately nine thousand dollars ($9,000) to educate each student in Louisiana every year; and

Whereas, federal limitations on the disclosure of immigration status of public school children hinders the determination of the financial impact of illegal immigration on the Louisiana public school system as a whole; and

Whereas, the annual costs associated with illegal immigration have burdened the state of Louisiana and its residents with expenses for law enforcement, healthcare, education, incarceration, and other essential services, and such costs have gone uncompensated by the federal government; and

Whereas, the costs associated with providing services to illegal immigrants should never be borne by the state of Louisiana because federal law controls the enforcement of illegal immigration; and

Whereas, the United States government should take immediate action to reimburse the state of Louisiana for estimated expenses that the state incurs annually as a result of the federal government's policies and mandates related to illegal immigration. Therefore, be it

Resolved That the House of Representatives of the Legislature of Louisiana does hereby memorialize the United States Congress to take such actions as are necessary to reimburse the state of Louisiana for the state dollars expended annually to provide essential services including but not limited to the education, welfare, medical care, law enforcement, and incarceration of illegal immigrants; and be it further

Resolved That the house of representatives of the legislature of Louisiana does hereby memorialize the United States Congress to remove any impediments with respect to disclosure of immigration status of public school children such that the financial impact of illegal immigration on the public school system in this state can be accurately determined; and be it further

Resolved That a copy of this Resolution be transmitted to the presiding officers of the Senate and the House of Representatives of the Congress of the United States of America and to each member o tie Louisiana congressional delegation.

POM–245. A joint resolution adopted by the Legislature of the State of California urging the United States Congress and the President of the United States to rename any federal buildings, parks, roadways, or other federally owned property that bear the names of elected or military leaders of the Confederate States of America; to the Committee on the Judiciary.

SENATE JOINT RESOLUTION NO. 15

Whereas, The Confederate States of America and its secessionist movement were rooted in the defense of slavery; and

Whereas, Using the names of elected or military leaders of the Confederate States of America for federal buildings, parks, roadways, or other federally owned property only deepens the pain of those living under the legacy of slavery; and

Whereas, The United States of America continues to struggle with racial equality and tolerance; and

Whereas, The continued use of names of elected or military leaders of the Confederacy in public places is offensive to Americans who treasure the United States as one nation under God, indivisible, with liberty and justice for all; and

Whereas, The horrific shooting deaths of nine African Americans attending church in South Carolina have once again raised the searing issue of racial violence and intolerance; and

Whereas, The ensuing images of the killer wrapping himself in the Confederate flag points to the continued use of that emblem of cruel oppression as a way to further demean, offend, and wound whole segments of our society; and

Whereas, The use of Confederate leaders' names in public schools, buildings, parks, roadways, or other federally owned property in California only serves to further the discriminatory agenda of current sympathizers of the ideology of the Confederate States of America, and is antithetical to California's mission of racial equality and tolerance; Now, therefore, be it

Resolved by the Senate and the Assembly of the State of California, jointly, That the Legislature respectfully urges the Congress and the President of the United States to rename any federal buildings, parks, roadways, or other federally owned property that bear the names of elected or military leaders of the Confederate States of America; and be it further

Resolved, That the Secretary of the Senate transmit copies of this resolution to the President and Vice President of the United States, to the Speaker of the House of Representatives, to the Majority Leader of the Senate, and to each Senator and Representative from California in the Congress of the United States.

POM–246. A joint resolution adopted by the Legislature of the State of California urging the United States Congress to lift an existing prohibition against publicly funded scientific research on the causes of gun violence and its effects on public health, and to appropriate funds for the purpose of conducting that research; to the Committee on the Judiciary.

SENATE JOINT RESOLUTION NO. 20

Whereas, Every day, gun violence destroys lives, families, and communities; and

Whereas, From 2002 to 2013, inclusive, California lost 38,576 individuals to gun violence, of which 2,258 were children; and

Whereas, In 2013 alone, guns were used to kill 2,900 Californians, including 251 children and teenagers, and hospitalized another 6,035 Californians for nonfatal gunshot wounds, including 1,275 children and teenagers; and

Whereas, There were over 350 recorded mass shootings in the United States in 2015; and

Whereas, Since 1996, Congress has adopted annual policy riders, known as the ''Dickey Amendment'' and ''Rehberg Amendment'' that effectively prohibit the federal Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) and other agencies under the federal Department of Health and Human Services from conducting publicly funded scientific research on the causes of gun violence or its effects on public health; and

Whereas, The author of the original Dickey Amendment, former Representative Jay Dickey (R–AR), has stated repeatedly that he regrets offering the amendment and thinks it should be repealed; and

Whereas, Despite Representative Dickey's comments and President Obama's executive action in 2013 directing the CDC to resume gun violence research, Congress has provided no funding, and the restrictive language remains in place; and

Whereas, Since 1996, the federal government has spent $240 million per year on traffic safety research, which has saved 360,000 lives since 1970; and

Whereas, During the same period there has been almost no publicly funded research on gun violence, which kills the same number of people every year; and

Whereas, Recently, 110 Members of the Congress of the United States signed a letter urging the leadership of the House of Representatives to end the longstanding ban on federal funding for gun violence research, and over 2,000 doctors in all 50 states plus the District of Columbia did the same; and

Whereas, Although Members of Congress may disagree about how best to respond to the problem of gun violence, we should be able to agree that a response should be informed by sound scientific evidence; and

Whereas, Whether it is horrific headline-generating massacres or unseen violence that occurs every day—the innocent child gunned down in crossfire, the mother murdered during a domestic dispute, or the young life cut tragically short during the heat of a petty argument—the call to action is now clear; Now, therefore, be it

Resolved by the Senate and the Assembly of the State of California, jointly, That a comprehensive evidence-based federal approach to reducing and preventing gun violence is needed to ensure that our communities are safe from gun violence; and be it further

Resolved, That federal research is crucial to saving lives, having driven policy to save lives from motor vehicle accidents, sudden infant death syndrome, lead poisoning, and countless other public health crises; and be it further

Resolved That the Legislature urges the Congress of the United States to promptly lift the prohibition against publicly funded scientific research on the causes of gun violence and its effects on public health, and to appropriate funds to the federal Centers for Disease Control and Prevention and other relevant agencies under the federal Department of Health and Human Services to conduct that research; and be it further

Resolved, That the Secretary of the Senate transmit copies of this resolution to the President and Vice President of the United States, to the Speaker of the House of Representatives, to the Majority Leader of the Senate, to each Senator and Representative from California in the Congress of the United States, and to the author for appropriate distribution.

POM–247. A concurrent memorial adopted by the Legislature of the State of Arizona urging the United States Congress to direct the American Legion to expand its membership eligibility; to the Committee on the Judiciary.

HOUSE CONCURRENT MEMORIAL 2009

Whereas, according to the American Legion, the organization was chartered and incorporated by Congress in 1919 as a patriotic veterans organization devoted to mutual helpfulness. As the nation's largest wartime veterans service organization, the American Legion is committed to mentoring youth and sponsoring wholesome programs in our communities, advocating patriotism and honor, promoting strong national security and providing support to fellow servicemembers and veterans; and

Whereas, the American Legion limits membership eligibility to those who have served federal active duty in the United States Armed Forces during the World War I era, World War II era, Korean War era, Vietnam War era, Lebanon/Grenada era, Panama era or Persian Gulf War era and who have been honorably discharged or are still serving; and

Whereas, all honorably discharged military veterans deserve the opportunity to participate in the American Legion.

Wherefore your memorialist, the House of Representatives of the State of Arizona, the Senate concurring, prays:

1. That the United States Congress direct the American Legion to expand its membership eligibility to include all honorably discharged military veterans.

2. That the Secretary of State of the State of Arizona transmit copies of this Memorial to the President of the United States, the Speaker of the United States House of Representatives, the President of the United States Senate and each Member of Congress from the State of Arizona.

POM–248. A concurrent memorial adopted by the Legislature of the State of Arizona urging the United States Congress to direct the appropriate federal agencies to secure the borders of the United States; to the Committee on the Judiciary.

SENATE CONCURRENT MEMORIAL 1012

Whereas, the United States is in the midst of a border crisis; and

Whereas, the sheriffs serving along the borders of the United States are in the epicenter of this crisis; and

Whereas, the porous borders of the United States have resulted in the smuggling of contraband and illegal drugs, the exploitation of human beings and the infiltration of subversives bent on doing harm to this country; and

Whereas, federal law mandates border security; and

Whereas, the quality of life normally enjoyed by the citizens of the United States is being jeopardized by an unsecure border, which enables transnational criminals and their accomplices to prey on the citizens of the United States; and

Whereas, border security must be a standalone priority for the federal government; and

Whereas, violence against public officials, law enforcement and rival drug and human trafficking groups in Mexico continues to escalate and cross international boundaries; and

Whereas, the reduction of the federal government's prosecution of the criminal element places the citizens of the United States in harm's way, leaving the burden on local governments to bear the costs associated with the apprehension, prosecution and incarceration of this criminal element; and

Whereas, elected sheriffs have a statutory duty to protect and secure the freedoms and liberties of United States citizens and must do so with or without the help of their federal law enforcement partners and policymakers; and

Whereas, working with limited budgets and staffing, sheriffs along the southwestern border of the United States and sheriffs across the nation struggle to find ways to enhance the quality of life and safety of those they serve and to deter those who cross our borders to promote their criminal activities; and

Whereas, local governments are cognizant of the need to bring relief to United States citizens who are impacted by the lack of border security; and

Whereas, without aggressive prosecution of all of those who breach the border and commit criminal acts, the border will continue to serve as an open opportunity for the criminal element to exploit by entering the United States to prey on this country and its citizens.

Wherefore, Your memorialist, the Senate of the State of Arizona, the House of Representatives concurring, prays:

1. That the United States Congress direct the appropriate federal agencies to do the following:

(a) Fully secure all of the borders of the United States,

(b) Fully reimburse sheriffs for the costs associated with the housing of illegal aliens who are being charged with state crimes.

(c) Return to the original guidelines as set forth in Operation Streamline for the prosecution of persons crossing the United States border illegally.

2. That the Secretary of State of the State of Arizona transmit copies of this Memorial to the President of the United States, the Speaker of the United States House of Representatives, the President of the United States Senate and each Member of Congress from the State of Arizona.

POM–249. A resolution adopted by the Senate of the State of Colorado concerning restoring the presumption of service connection for Agent Orange exposure for United States Vietnam veterans through the ''Blue Water Navy Vietnam Veterans Act of 2015''; to the Committee on Veterans'' Affairs.

SENATE RESOLUTION 16–002

Whereas, During the Vietnam War, the United States military sprayed approximately 22 million gallons of Agent Orange and other herbicides over the Republic of Vietnam to reduce forest cover and crops used by the enemy; and

Whereas, These herbicides contained dioxin, which has since been identified as carcinogenic and has been linked to a number of serious and disabling illnesses affecting thousands of veterans; and

Whereas, The United States Congress passed the federal ''Agent Orange Act of 1991'' to address the plight of veterans exposed to herbicides while serving in the Republic of Vietnam, which amended Title 38 of the United States Code to presumptively recognize as service-connected certain diseases among military personnel who served in Vietnam between 1962 and 1975; and

Whereas, Presumptive status provides expedited claims processing for access to appropriate disability compensation and medical care for Vietnam veterans diagnosed with such illnesses as Type II diabetes, Hodgkin's disease, non-Hodgkin's lymphoma, prostate cancer, Parkinson's Disease, multiple myeloma, peripheral neuropathy, AL amyloidosis, respiratory cancers, soft tissue carcinomas, and other diseases yet to be identified; and

Whereas, The United States Department of Veterans Affairs Claims Adjudication Manual, more commonly known as the M21–1 Manual, originally allowed the presumption to be extended to all veterans who had received the Vietnam Service Medal; and

Whereas, In a February 2002 revision to the M21–1 Manual, the United States Department of Veterans Affairs (VA) added a requirement that the veteran prove that he or she had set foot on the land or entered an internal river or stream, which means that since 2002 the VA has denied the presumption of a service connection for herbicide-related illnesses to Vietnam veterans who served in the waters off of the Vietnamese coast or in bays and harbors and who cannot furnish documentation that they had ''boots on the ground'' in-country, making it virtually impossible for countless United States Navy and Marine veterans to acquire VA benefits; and

Whereas, Personnel who served on ships in the ''Blue Water Navy'' in. Vietnamese territorial waters were, in fact, exposed to dangerous airborne and waterborne toxins that did not merely drift offshore in the air, but also washed into streams and rivers draining into the South China Sea; and

Whereas, Warships positioned off the Vietnamese shore routinely distilled seawater to obtain potable water, and a 2002 Australian study found that the distillation process, rather than removing toxins, concentrated and enhanced dioxin in water used for drinking, cooking, and washing; and

Whereas, This study was conducted by the Australian Department of Veterans' Affairs after it found Vietnam veterans of the Royal Australian Navy had a higher rate of mortality from Agent Orange-associated diseases than did Vietnam veterans from other branches of the military, and when the United States Centers for Disease Control and Prevention studied specific cancers among Vietnam veterans, it, too, found a higher incidence of certain cancers among United States Navy veterans; and

Whereas, Additional studies, including those conducted by the Institute of Medicine, show plausible pathways for Agent Orange to have entered the South China Sea via contaminated dirt and debris from rivers and streams; and

Whereas, The 2009 ''Institute of Medicine (US) Committee to Review the Health Effects in Vietnam Veterans of Exposure to Herbicides (Seventh Biennial Update)'' recommended that veterans who served on ships off the coast of the Republic of Vietnam not be excluded from the presumption of exposure; and

Whereas, Herbicides containing TCDD/dioxin did not discriminate between soldiers on the ground and sailors on ships offshore; and

Whereas, House Resolution 969 and identical companion bill Senate 681, the ''Blue Water Navy Vietnam Veterans Act of 2015'', were introduced, respectively, in the U.S.

House of Representatives on March 6, 2015, by Representative Christopher Gibson, and on March 19, 2015, by Senator Kirsten Gillibrand in the U.S. Senate; and

Whereas, More than 30 national veterans service organizations support the Congressional House and Senate legislation entitled ''Blue Water Navy Vietnam Veterans Act of 2015''; and

Whereas, Various agencies of the federal government have recently demonstrated awareness of the hazards of Agent Orange exposure through participation and funding of the identification, containment, and mitigation of dioxin ''hot spots'' in Vietnam; and

Whereas, The United States Congress should reaffirm the nation's commitment to the well-being of all of its veterans by directing the United States Department of Veterans Affairs to properly administer the federal ''Agent Orange Act of 1991'' and by passing House Resolution 969 and identical companion bill Senate 681, the ''Blue Water Navy Vietnam Veterans Act of 2015'', under the presumption that herbicide exposure in the Republic of Vietnam includes service on the offshore waters; now, therefore,

Be It Resolved by the Senate of the Seventieth General Assembly of the State of Colorado:

That we, the members of the Senate of the Colorado General Assembly, hereby respectfully encourage the United States Congress to restore the presumption of service connection for Agent Orange exposure to United States veterans who served on the waters off the coast of the Republic of Vietnam; and

Be It Further Resolved, That copies of this resolution be sent to President Barack Obama; Vice President and President of the Senate Joe Biden; Speaker of the House of Representatives Paul Ryan; Chairman of the Subcommittee on Disability Assistance and Memorial Affairs in the House of Representatives; Chairman of the House Committee on Veterans Affairs; Chairman of the Senate Committee on Veterans Affairs; and to each member of the Colorado Congressional delegation.

POM–250. A concurrent resolution adopted by the Legislature of the State of Hawaii urging the United States Congress to amend federal law to allow funds for the burial of qualified Filipino-American veterans in national and state veterans cemeteries to cover the costs of transporting the remains of Filipino-American veterans of World War II to the Philippines and for funeral and burial services in the Philippines; to the Committee on Veterans' Affairs.

HOUSE CONCURRENT RESOLUTION NO. 23

Whereas, during World War II, the Philippines was a Commonwealth of the United States, and, for four years, nearly 100,000 soldiers of the Philippine Commonwealth Army fought alongside the United States and Allied forces to defend and reclaim the Philippine Islands from foreign aggression; and

Whereas, these valiant Filipino soldiers fought, suffered, and died in some of the bloodiest battles of World War II, defending beleaguered Bataan and Corregidor, and thousands of them became prisoners of war, enduring the infamous Bataan Death March and years of captivity; and

Whereas, the sacrifices of these Filipino soldiers played a vital role in the Allied victory in the Pacific as their numerous guerrilla actions provided United States forces with time to build and prepare for the Allied counterattack; and

Whereas, these Filipino soldiers fought side-by-side with United States forces to secure their island nation as the strategic base from which the final effort by Allied forces to bring an end to World War II was launched; and

Whereas, the United States promised these Filipino soldiers pay and benefits for their military service under the United States Armed Forces and for their oath of allegiance to the Constitution of the United States; however, soon after the war ended, legislation was passed that wrongfully took away the benefits and recognition they had earned; and

Whereas, because these World War II veterans had suffered a great wrong, and recognizing that for those with family in the Philippines the return of their remains to the Philippines is a profound and fervent wish, the Legislature in 2003 enacted Act 101, Session Laws of Hawaii 2003, requiring the Office of Veterans' Services to pay up to $2,500 for the transport of their remains to the Philippines and funeral and burial services in the Philippines; and

Whereas, funding, however, has not been provided to fulfill this statutory requirement; and

Whereas, in the early 2000s, the United States also enacted legislation requiring the Veterans Administration to pay the full cost of burials at national and state veterans cemeteries to the survivors of these World War II veterans; however, this legislation failed to address coverage of the costs of transport to and services in the Philippines to be with their loved ones; and

Whereas, though many years have transpired since World War II, the words of United States President Harry S. Truman in 1946 remain the honest truth: ''I consider it a moral obligation of the United States to look after the welfare of Philippine Army veterans.''; and

Whereas, for the small number of World War II Filipino-American veterans who are still living, this moral obligation of the United States should extend to fulfilling their wish for a resting place in the Philippines among their loved ones, for this is an entitlement that they have clearly sacrificed for and earned; Now, therefore, be it

Resolved, By the House of Representatives of the Twenty-eighth Legislature of the State of Hawaii, Regular Session of 2016, the Senate concurring, that Congress is urged to amend federal law to allow funds for the burial of qualified Filipino-American veterans in national and state cemeteries to cover the costs of transporting the remains of eligible Filipino-American veterans of World War II to the Philippines and for funeral and burial services in the Philippines; and be it further

Resolved, That certified copies of this Concurrent Resolution be transmitted to the President of the United States, Speaker of the United States House of Representatives, President of the United States Senate, Hawaii's Congressional delegation, and the Director of the Office of Veterans' Services.

POM–251. A concurrent memorial adopted by the Legislature of the State of Arizona urging the United States Congress to adopt legislation similar to the Toxic Exposure Research Act of 2015; to the Committee on Veterans' Affairs.

HOUSE CONCURRENT MEMORIAL 2006

Whereas, thousands of veterans have been exposed to Agent Orange and other chemical agents during the course of their service to the United States; and

Whereas, today, many of the children and grandchildren of veterans are suffering serious health issues that are related to the veterans' exposure to chemical agents; and

Whereas, the people of the United States owe it to their veterans to better understand the impacts of these exposures in order to guarantee that the children and grandchildren of veterans receive appropriate treatment; and

Whereas, the full effects of exposure to dangerous chemicals such as Agent Orange is still unknown, and a national research center is needed to further study the impact these exposures have on veterans, their children and their grandchildren; and

Whereas, the Toxic Exposure Research Act of 2015 is a critical step in protecting the veterans of the United States.

Wherefore your memorialist, the House of Representatives of the State of Arizona, the Senate concurring, prays:

1. That the United States Congress adopt legislation similar to H.R. 1769 and S. 901, the Toxic Exposure Research Act of 2015, that would establish in the United States Department of Veterans Affairs a national center for research on the diagnosis and treatment of health conditions of the descendants of veterans exposed to toxic substances during service in the armed forces of the United States that are related to that exposure.

2. That the Secretary of State of the State of Arizona transmit a copy of this Memorial to the President of the United States Senate, the Speaker of the United States House of Representatives and each Member of Congress from the State of Arizona.

POM–252. A petition from a citizen of the State of Texas relative to immigration; to the Committee on the Judiciary.

POM–253. A petition from a citizen of the State of Texas relative to refugees; to the Committee on the Judiciary.

POM–254. A resolution adopted by the Legislature of Guam expressing unequivocal support for the United Nations World Health Organization Framework Convention on Tobacco Control (WHO–FCTC) in its efforts to address the global tobacco epidemic; requesting that the President of the United States support the WHO–FCTC, and submit it to the United States Senate for ratification; and requesting that the United States Senate ratify the WHO–FCTC; to the Committee on Foreign Relations.

REPORTS OF COMMITTEES

The following reports of committees were submitted:

By Mr. JOHNSON, from the Committee on Homeland Security and Governmental Affairs, with amendments:

S. 1869. A bill to improve Federal network security and authorize and enhance an existing intrusion detection and prevention system for civilian Federal networks (Rept. No. 114–378).

By Mr. THUNE, from the Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation, with an amendment in the nature of a substitute:

S. 3087. A bill to establish the American Fisheries Advisory Committee to assist in the awarding of fisheries research and development grants and for other purposes (Rept. No. 114–379).

By Mr. BARRASSO, from the Committee on Indian Affairs, with an amendment in the nature of a substitute:

S. 2580. A bill to establish the Indian Education Agency to streamline the administration of Indian education, and for other purposes (Rept. No. 114–380).

By Mr. BARRASSO, from the Committee on Indian Affairs, with an amendment:

S. 2643. A bill to improve the implementation of the settlement agreement reached between the Pueblo de Cochiti of New Mexico and the Corps of Engineers, and for other purposes (Rept. No. 114–381).

By Mr. BARRASSO, from the Committee on Indian Affairs, with an amendment in the nature of a substitute:

S. 2717. A bill to improve the safety and address the deferred maintenance needs of Indian dams to prevent flooding on Indian reservations, and for other purposes (Rept. No. 114–382).